



# Worromontogus Lake Association Newsletter



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November 2008

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**Don't forget to  
check out the  
website for new  
information,  
great photos and  
activities.  
[www.toguspods.org](http://www.toguspods.org)**

## WLA Holiday Party December 5th

### Dear Fellow Members,

We had a well attended and productive Annual Meeting in October. We have a new Secretary, Greg Jolda who lives on the Tasker Road. As we welcome Greg, we all should thank Alison Hoar, the outgoing Secretary for her time and contribution to the WLA.

At the meeting we decided to level the shack at the Landing, we had reports from committee chairs, as well as discussion of our website and the new additions that can be found there.

However, the majority of the meeting was spent with three guest speakers who provided insights and diverse points of view on the re-introduction of alewives and their relationship to the pond and specifically algae growth in the water column; Frank Richards, president of the Webber Lake Association, Professor David Potter from Unity College and Nate Gray from Dept. of Marine Resources were all informed and informative. We listened, asked questions and learned about lake ecosystems in general and our own pond in particular for the better part of two hours. Of course, that much information can't be repeated in a letter like this one; I can only say that I carried away a better understanding of the issues involved with water quality and a growing appreciation of the complex relationship between the lake, its residents (human as well as other fauna and flora), and the natural cycles we are experiencing. We will be very careful to let members know when we have follow up meetings/trainings/events dealing with water quality in the upcoming year.

We also set a date for our annual Holiday Party. Board and Officers will be available for questions and there may be a short formal meeting to deal with any issues requiring the membership's attention, but the real reason for this gathering is to have fun. We'll have a 50/50 raffle, a chance to toast the season with your friends and neighbors. We are fortunate to have the Fox Glen clubhouse to use and everyone should know that the Snowmobile Club is providing the clubhouse for our use at no cost to the WLA, particularly in these tight financial times we all owe them thanks for the hospitality.

I hope to see you at the party.

Patten Williams,  
President WLA

### Friday, December 5th

- 5:30 Social time
- 6:00—6:30 Dinner
- 6:30 Yankee Swap



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.

## A Few Thoughts on Alewives

By Dr. Melissa Laser



When I first started working in watershed restoration in the mid-coast area of Maine, I remember thinking, "Who would have thought that a small bait fish would cause so much controversy"? Much of my work over the past nine years has focused on sea run Atlantic salmon, a charismatic fish that also is the center of controversy in the Kennebec River and Togus Stream. But alewives? That caught me off guard.

I am a landscape ecologist and therefore often take a big picture approach to restoration and pay close attention to linkages and pathways between systems. The alewife is an anadromous fish that spawns in fresh water lakes in the spring and migrates to the ocean in the late summer or fall. It is hard to describe the role it has in the ecosystem, but suffice it to say – it is one of the most important species native to Maine freshwater lakes and rivers as well as the ocean. This is a fish that whose main role in life is to be food for larger critters.

By now I think everyone has heard about the potential for alewives to help with the phosphorus issues in Togus Pond. Calculations by the Department of Marine Resources, which are based on a study by the Department of Environmental Protection, estimate the total phosphorus exchange to be between -300 and -1700 lbs/yr (-132 to -770 kg/yr) based on the

number of alewives in the system (J. Valliere, DMR Personal Communication). The 2005 Togus Pond Phosphorus Control Action Plan and Total Maximum Daily Load Report states the intermediate goal of phosphorus load reduction of 21 kg P/yr can be obtained within 10 years at a cost of \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000 to install BMPs and other phosphorus reduction efforts (KCSWCD 2008). I think these numbers show that alewives have the potential to help reach the phosphorus reduction goals for the lake. As for costs, after a few years of stocking alewives, they will come and go on their own. Just something to think about.

As I live on the lake and would love to see it not turn green, I fully support the phosphorous reduction value of alewives. However, I also support alewives in the lake for a completely different reason – for the alewives sake. There are 12 species of fish native to Maine that migrate between the ocean and the freshwater; all of them are in trouble. I am not advocating that we go back to the way things were 300 years ago, nor that we remove the dam – but rather we provide access to these native species through installation of a fish ladder to some of their historical habitat and give them a chance to keep the linkage between the ocean and the land alive.

Dr. Melissa Laser  
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