# Lake Meddybemps association Annual meeting

# August 5, 2012

President Peter Trouant called the meeting to order at 11:07 a.m., and introduced Karen Holmes, Cooper, Owl Expert, as our guest speaker. Karen is a regular contributor to the Quoddy Times and the Northwoods Journal, and brought a number of informational materials to the meeting.

She went over the biology of owls, and related how the Saw-whet, Barred and Great Horned Owls are the most common around Lake Meddybemps.

Peter Trouant then called the business portion of the meeting to order at 11:48 a.m.

Thanks were expressed to Diane James and others for providing leftovers for today’s meeting, as well as to Karen Holmes for her informative presentation.

## Secretary’s Report – Katy Hews

Minutes from 2011 were presented for discussion. Meg Rothberg motioned to approve; Cary James seconded; 2011 minutes were unanimously approved.

## Treasurer’s Report – Liz Trouant

The July 2011 – June 2012 LMA Treasurer’s report was presented (see attached exhibit 1). Ending balance as of June 2012 was $6,088.53. Note that the Holloway fund is included in the balance. There were 39 dues paying members in the 2011-2012 calendar year.

Rolf Towe moved to accept the treasurer’s report; Cary James seconded; members approved.

## Activities Reports

The Directors met on July 7 and July 28, 2012 to set the agenda for annual meeting and to develop suggestions for directors’ activities during the winter of 2013.

### Loon count:

Ed Ketchen is the coordinator for loon count and coordinates with the Audubon rep. Lance and Sherry, Cary James and Pete Trouant all participated in the Loon count. A total of 23 loons were counted, including two chicks. A question was raised if there was a significance in so few chicks being counted. It needs to be noted that the sample is taken over one hour on one specific day. There were several chicks sighted after the official count. Last year we counted 17 loons. Peter does not remember a year when we’ve had 23.

That being said, there is concern with levels of mercury, which may be causing a drop in fertility among loons. Mercury deposition is a concern in Maine lakes. Contaminates can have a very negative impact on nesting birds.

We are learning a lot from how the Cathance Association does their loon counts and their activities towards lake protection.

Tufts University is spearheading research on loons.

Suggestion: We should consider working with the Cathance Association to come up with a separate chick count. This would be an informal count to give a better feel for the actual number of chicks. Glen will talk with the Cathance Lake Association loon count coordinator.

### Secchi Tests (Pete Trouant):

The first Secchi test was taken on May 3, 2012. It is taken two times a month. We have gotten good readings. Samples will be taken through October. Results are submitted in July and October.

### Phosphorous Tests (Cary James):

During the July tests, the phosphorous test was also taken. Six samples were taken from around the lake. Phosphorous will also be sampled again the third week in August and then again later in October.

The six sites include 15th Stream and 16th Stream, Bear Cove, St. Helena, Stone Brook and the town dock. A comprehensive study is done every five years. The last comprehensive test one was done 2010. Information from that test is on the association website. The current tests are part of our ongoing, traditional cycling. Phosphorous continues to be the number 1 concern because of Eutrophication. Although the levels remain within the acceptable range, some are creeping up to threshold level of 13 pbb. When Steve Norton spoke at the 2011 Association meeting he recommended that we correlate phosphorous with dissolved oxygen. This would require a special piece of equipment that costs about $500 - $600. Cary James recommends that we do this. Dissolved Oxygen is a measure of the productivity of the water, which is required for organisms to survive. If the lake becomes eutrophic, if phosphorous becomes a limiting influence, this will affect the level of dissolved oxygen. The readings can be affected by depth and temperature.

A motion was made by Glen Ball to test for dissolved oxygen, correlated with phosphorous. The cost associated with this testing will be up to $600 to purchase the equipment. Maintenance of the DO meter will be an ongoing cost.

The motion was seconded by Rolf, Sherry and Carolyn, and unanimously approved.

Cary also reported on what his students are doing with water quality studies around the world. In the last three years, Bangor High Schools has had two of the last three year’s national winners, and this year’s state winner. In 2012 he has students working with Finley Richmond from Haiti (guest at the Association Meeting) on a sanitation and conservation project to provide low cost water filters through the “Water for ME” foundation. (See attached handout). Cary thanked association members who had donated monies to his students to build a well in a small village in Kenya.

### Town Report:

Doing well. The town is involved with Ernie Atkinson, Assistant Regional Salmon Biologist for the Downeast Region of the Atlantic Salmon Commission. The commission is keeping up on the dam water level. They are here every week making adjustments to the dam flow. (See attached meeting newsletter.) There is an elvers shoot located on top of the dam to allow them to get into the lake. The Atlantic Salmon Commission is not only worried about salmon, but about any sea-running species, including eels and alewives. The elvers shoot is part of a school project conducted by the East Machias Aquatic Research Center. According to Jeff Orchard, no elvers were able to get up to the shoot. It would need to have a pump installed by the Atlantic Salmon Commission.

The fish way is working – alewives are going through.

The State is going to put bid out this summer to remove the old power house. The State has determined that it owns the power plant. Once the power plant is removed, there won’t be any obstacle to fish getting into the lake.

Note, the peak of the alewives season is Memorial Day. The peak occurred two weeks earlier this year. A question was raised if the town permits alewives dipping? Pete responded that the town doesn’t interfere as long as the alewives population is up. If you look at the foot of the dam, it’s black with them, even with the dippers. It’s currently not affecting the numbers. If it does interfere, the Town will respond.

There is very good cooperation between the Atlantic Salmon Commission and the East Machias Aquatic Research Center.

### Invasive plants:

The invasive plant investigation will be done on August 21, at 10:30, with Mark White. Carolyn, and Liz and Pete Trouant go out with Mark and look for 17 to 20 different plants. They haven’t seen anything in past years. The results will be sent into the State the middle of November as part of the water tests. If anyone is interested, meet at the town dock on the 21st. The investigation goes from the boat ramp into the cove. The investigation is conducted in late August because that’s when the plants are mature. The investigation takes about an hour and is an interesting experience, if anyone else is interested.

### COLA:

Glen Ball presented information on the Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) program. He is putting together a grant application. The maximum amount you can get is $2000. This goes towards salaries for people who would be working the inspection program, and training for the lake association volunteers who would assist. We would have a CBI coordinator who would run the program. That individual would have to file reports to the DEP. LMA would have to match the State’s funds. It would also require trained individuals to observe if any plant fragments are evident on boats launching at the town dock. The program has been running for a couple of years, and has been successfully on implemented at Cathance Lake. The program is done through the Lakes Environmental Association, COLA and DEP. These grants are funded through the Milfoil tax we pay on our boat registration.

COLA publishes a newsletter that goes over many of the functions they have in place to protect our lakes. They run workshops and have been expanding their Lake Smart volunteer projects. They function as lobbyists to advocate for lake protection.

Additional information can be found on the COLA website.

Note: Karen Holmes from Cathance coordinates all the people who go out on Cathance Lake. Cathance holds a breakfast to raise funds for the CBI program. Once you get going, the CBI is a very simple process. You also teach boaters to self-inspect.

Pete, Liz and Carolyn are the only certified boat inspectors in LMA. Lance and Sherry Bagley and Meg Rothberg also went through the training. You need to get recertified on an annual basis.

Glen is coordinating with the Cathance Association to learn how to do the grant. We would have to reapply every year. Washington County doesn’t have many CBIs going on, and the DEP is encouraging us to take preventative measures.

### Charlotte/Meddybemps Search and Rescue Boat:

Charlotte/Meddybemps Search and Rescue Boat is now operational (bought from Calais). The group got a grant to purchase a motor. They are now looking for a place to store the boat. The boat carries a pump and hose. It is currently housed in the old fire station in Charlotte, but they are looking for a place closer to Meddybemps. Charlotte and Meddybemps Fire Departments are working closely together. They are part of the Washington County Alliance of Fire Departments, and can be accessed in an emergency by calling 911.

### Fundraising:

The 4th annual pancake breakfast, chaired by Diane, was a huge success. The total for the breakfast, with the auction, and selling of items, etc., was $928.47 (minus expenses). Last year we made $376.95 on the breakfast.

Diane thanked everyone who helped – the breakfast couldn’t have been done without everyone’s help.

## Donations:

Last year, at the Director’s meeting, we donated a total $550.

Rolf Towe made a motion to increase the cap on donations to $650.00.

Discussion:

Other members may want to suggest donations for different organizations, e.g., COLA.

We have a cap that is set – but procedurally, do we want to revisit the cap every year.

Tithe a percent of income, if income is lower, would be go down. If higher, would go up. Also, we could make a cap based on the amount of money we have in bank.

It was decided this could be a Labor Day director’s (or future director’s meeting) discussion.

Ted Bloomhardt seconded Rolf’s motion. The motion passed.

Liz Trouant moved that we maintain our donation to the five fire departments ($450). The motion was seconded and passed.

A motion was made for the remaining $200, $100 to go to the Haiti water filter project, $50 to COLA and $50 to Lakes Monitoring Program. The motion was seconded by Margie Stockton and passed.

## Open:

We are trying to update our membership list. If anyone has new email addresses, let Liz Trouant know. A suggestion was made that a card be sent out requesting updated information to be filled out, and sent back to Liz.

## Elections:

* Liz Bloomhardt is ascending into presidency
* Pete Trouant will be Vice President

A vote is not required for these positions.

Proposed slate of officers:

* Katy Hews – Secretary
* Liz Trouant - Treasurer
* Directors
  + Frank Putnam
  + Sherry Bagley
  + Roland Tomasch
  + Amy Salamon

Nominations from the floor were called for.

Liz Trouant made a motion that nominations cease. The motion was seconded and passed.

Liz Bloomhardt made a motion to accept the slate of officers. Diane James seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Motion to adjourn at 1:01 was made, seconded, and passed.