



THE LAKESIDER

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

Presidential Ponderings

Greetings, People of the 2 Pushaws.

I became involved in the GPLA in the early years of Rich Dressler's presidency, and he reached the limit of the time he could serve that office under our bylaws. I bring a very different background to this work, having served churches and non-profits these past 43 years. Yet while I run meetings and write letters and articles, Rich continues to provide expertise and work for our Board and all of you. Thanks for your years in office, Rich, and thanks for your ongoing participation. And thanks to our other board members many of whom also have years of service to all of us.

Our Pushaws continue to be marginally healthy, and that is good news. The other side of this is that challenges to that health abound, and your GPLA continues to work to address these. You can read about some of this work in this newsletter, and you can help in a small way simply by paying dues to be a member. A bigger way to help is by signing up for a friendly property review via a Lakesmart visit conducted by a neighbor near or far who, like yourself, is a Pushaw person. Carolyn Eaton, our coordinator, has included information about this process. If you find this visit helpful, you could also become a Lakesmart visitor with a few hours of training, and help your neighbors keep Pushaw healthy.

There is plenty of Pushaw information available on our website at greaterpushaw.org. Current issues and great pictures and stories are found at our FB page "Greater Pushaw Lake Association". And our GPLA annual meeting is scheduled for JULY 19th, but place and agenda won't be settled until our May 18th Board meeting.

Please feel welcome to be in touch with me at greaterpushawlakeassociation@gmail.com, or via my phone, 207-331-4672.

Bruce Burnham, Board President

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HELP PROTECT OUR BELOVED NATURAL RESOURCE

We need your help to prevent introduction of invasive aquatic species into our lake. Inspections at the boat launch will be done during high use times including weekends and holidays.

Pushaw Lake is an important economic, environmental and recreational resource to the greater Bangor area. Due to Pushaw Lake's accessibility, heavy recreational use and shallow depth, the **threat of invasive aquatic plants is taken very seriously and an infestation would have devastating recreational and economic impact (including property values) to the four towns around Pushaw Lake.** Pushaw Lake is ranked high by DEP on vulnerability to invasive infestation. Among the public access points to Pushaw Lake, Gould's Landing and Lakeside Landing provide the best boat launch sites. Gould's Landing is the busiest public boat launching location on the Lake.

The third public landing, Cook's Point, is primarily used by local residents, and is a shallow launch sometimes not useable during summers with lower water.

While there are currently no known invasive plants in Pushaw Lake, **the first line of defense against invasive aquatic plants is Maine's Courtesy Boat Inspections (CBI)**. Many new infestations occur in shallow waters near public boat launch facilities, so its obvious invasive plants move from lake to lake on the boats and equipment of unsuspecting boaters. If people are the cause, they can also be the cure. Since courtesy boat inspections started, the number of boats inspected has risen from just 2,848 in 2001 to 89,425 in 2021.

Here on Pushaw Lake we have had **Courtesy Boat Inspections at Lakeside Landing for several years managed by the Town of Glenburn**. CBI were conducted at Gould's Landing for several years in the early 2000s managed by Town of Orono with assistance from Greater Pushaw Lake Association. In addition, local Bass clubs participating in club tournaments on Pushaw Lake are required to conduct inspections as a condition of their permit from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

At each launch site there is the risk of bringing invasive species from other lakes into Pushaw waters.

[??? Are You LakeSmart Yet? ???](#)

If not, then schedule a free visit now by contacting Coordinator Carolyn Eaton at pushawlakesmart@gmail.com, and/or by checking the box on the membership form in this newsletter. We are also looking for more volunteers to do training and visits. If we all reduce runoff into the lake we can avoid a dreaded, damaging algae bloom. This occurs when phosphorus levels are too high causing reduced oxygen and killing fish.

Lakeside property values are linked to lake quality, so as water quality declines, so does your property value.

Please do your part to avoid this algae bloom from ever happening, and let our trained volunteers help you!

Sandy Beach Cove





Please respect the 200' NO WAKE ZONE to avoid disturbing loon nests and protect shoreline property!

We all look forward to the return of the loons in the spring, and hearing their melodious, trilling call. They nest VERY close to the water line. Any wake can flood their nest and then the eggs will not hatch. They only lay 2 eggs at best. They only get one chance per season to raise those chicks. Help them! Keep your speed DOWN.

PUSHAW LAKE BUOYS, DECODED

If you've wondered about all those buoys on Pushaw Lake, here's a primer. Below is the meaning of the markings on the three primary buoys on our lake, which are there to warn you about hazards or restrictions to boating. If you spot a damaged or drifting buoy, please notify the Bureau of Parks and Lands immediately at 207-582-5771. GPLA uses special permanent buoys to mark its water quality testing sites. **Please note that there are NO permanent buoys within 200 feet of the shoreline. This is a NO-WAKE ZONE where boaters can generally see the hazards and avoid them.** But in a tannic lake like Pushaw, dark rocks can remain hidden—even at very low boat speeds. Lakeside residents often place “bleach bottle buoys” (BBBs) in this zone to mark underwater hazards. These smaller buoys can be easily dislodged by boats and jet skis, so PLEASE keep an eye out and steer clear as you navigate around our beautiful lake.



Control Markers - These are white buoys with an **orange circle and black lettering indicating a restricted or controlled area on the water.** An example of these signs is 'Safety Slow Zone' buoy approaching Gould's Landing or 'Headway Speed Only' buoys on lake inlet and outlet, so read them carefully.



Hazard Markers - Especially look out for these white buoys with an **orange diamond, with the source of danger spelled out in black lettering.** These signs can warn watercraft operators of danger areas such as dam, rocks, and other hazardous areas or situations. There may be single markers or more than one marker designating area to avoid. Take care going between adjacent markers or avoid the area all together.



Obstruction Markers - These are buoys are **white with black vertical stripes**, and indicate an obstruction to navigation. Do not pass between these markers and the nearest shore.

ANNUAL MAINE AUDUBON LOON COUNT ON PUSHAW LAKE and LITTLE PUSHAW POND

The 2023 loon count will take place on Saturday, July 15, from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. 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 2022 to determine availability to help count loons from boats, kayaks, and shoreline this year. If you have helped in years before 2022, or have never helped but would like to get involved, please contact Rich Dressler at 827-5407.

**Greater Pushaw Lake
Association**

Greater Pushaw Lake Association
PO Box 302
Stillwater, ME 04489

Phone: 207 827-3343
Website: www.greaterpushaw.org

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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:

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

Thanks!