

2022 Dues: \$20 + additional donations, all tax-deductible
Check to ALA, Box 464
Orland 04472 or PayPal on website

Alamoosook Lake Association Newsletter: Early Spring 2022

Dear Stewards of Alamoosook:

It was a rude awakening in February when our plant sample was confirmed as invasive variable water-milfoil. Then suddenly we're in the news as hosting the first confirmed invasive in a Hancock County lake. Beautiful Alamoosook is branded as infested. Ouch! All this time surveying, inspecting, and keeping our fingers crossed only to learn we have a challenger to eradicate. It's easy to bemoan this devastating "negative" publicity, but I'm going to dredge up some positives from my perspective:

1. The strength of our stewardship: Our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) team, while needing reinforcements, has excellent coordination and Ram Island Conservation Trust funding support. (See Charlie Dodge's article); our Alamoosook All Clear Team (AACT) has returning and additional volunteers ready for more training in 2022 (See list of training options); and the Water Quality monitoring team is grateful that others are stepping up for training. [Note it was AACT member Charleyne Gilbert who found the suspicious plant sample for submission to Lake Stewards. Without early detection, invasives can grow out of control.]
2. ALA is but one member of the Alamoosook Invasive Milfoil Response Team. Maine DEP, Lake Stewards of Maine, our neighbors at Toddy Pond, Hancock County Soil and Water Conservation District, Hancock County Lakes Assoc and others have our back. (see website for response team doc)
3. Hancock County is now on alert and will be improving vigilance. Among the approximate 100 lakes in the county there are few active lake associations, invasive plant patrols or courtesy boat inspection programs. Because of the news, let's hope volunteers will be motivated to get involved to protect their treasured lakes from infestation. Grant money will be more readily available. Town officials, more aware of the threat to local recreation and potential cost of mitigation, might start contributing to CBI efforts.
4. All will benefit from increased community education about the importance of native habitats, ecosystems, water quality and how to prevent transmission of invasive species between water bodies.
5. The protection of Maine lakes becomes increasingly important as invasive infestation spreads further east across the State. [Note that Maine DEP's Invasive Species Unit is supported by funding from Maine's sticker program for motorized watercraft] (contd on p. 2)

www.alamoosooklakeassociation.org

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 12: ALA Board of Directors Meeting

May 4: Courtesy Boat Inspection Training 5:30 pm
<https://lakesenvironmentalassociation.wufoo.com/forms/z3k416t1vsehhk/>

June 14: (Tuesday) ALA membership meeting with guest speakers: aquatic plant experts Mark Whiting & Roberta Hill, Alamoosook Lakeside Inn

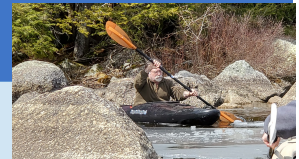
June 25 (tent.): First date for Courtesy Boat Inspection

July 16 LOON COUNT

July 28: Plant Paddle with LSM on Alamoosook (see more training dates page)

August 23 (Tuesday): ALA membership meeting & Board of Directors election, Alamoosook Lakeside Inn

September 10 (Saturday): Orland River Day 2022 (ALA will host an interactive booth



2022 Loon Count—Fred Blodgett

The annual state of Maine loon count conducted by Maine Audubon occurs on the third Saturday each July. This year's count will be held on July 16. Last year, we had 15 volunteer Loon Counters on Lake Alamoosook. Sightings confirmed at least 20 adult loons. No chicks were seen.

Statewide, a mostly clear and calm day allowed for counting on 328 lakes, involving more than 1400 volunteers. 3446 loons were counted, up from 2974 the year before. Chick estimates however were down, 224 were sighted in 2021 compared to 414 in 2020. It is too early to tell if this is a temporary decline or will become a pattern.

I will begin contacting volunteers for this year's count on Alamoosook in late spring. This year we may have an opening or two for new volunteers. Anyone interested can contact me at FSBlodgett@gmail.com.

(from p. 1)

We are a supportive community, contributing to the Association with our dues, donations, serving as directors on the Board, and volunteering for ALA programs noted above and community outreach, including looking out for our neighbors. There are our long-time elders who cheer from the sidelines with gratitude.

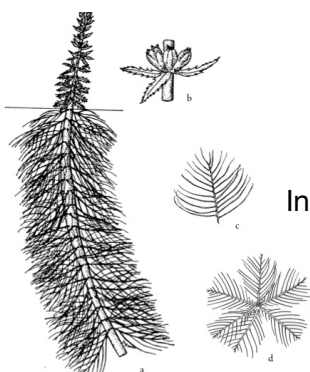
This 2022 challenge will be met with strength and commitment. By the summer's end we will have completed a full survey of Alamoosook Lake at greater depths than previously conducted, know the extent of the infestation, and have a plan in place. This is POSITIVE!

I haven't mentioned the Browntail Moth, but hopefully the information Anne sent out earlier this month has helped some of you take action.

As for Whole Oceans, whose reps spoke to the Association a few years back to an over-flow crowd at the Inn, it continues to change management, has yet to break ground, and is dealing with law suits and renewal of permits.

On a much brighter note, everyone is looking forward to gathering once again on June 14th at the Alamoosook Lakeside Inn and taking a closer look at the Milfoil (one of 4 invasives and 5 natives) that's thrust Alamoosook into the news. Also at this meeting the Board will ask members to vote for Matt Ball to replace Pete Walton. He's a bright light in ALA's future.(see p. 3)

See you there!
Katie



Invasive Variable Water-Milfoil



We all need to begin educating ourselves. Pictures above:
Drawing courtesy U. of Florida/FAS Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants

Photo courtesy Dennis Roberge, LSM

From Charlie Dodge:

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program

ALA's CBI Program is more important than ever this year! As you may know, a confirmed sample of invasive Variable Water Milfoil was found in Alamoosook Lake last fall, and now our precious lake is now registered as an **Infested Lake**. We are doing everything we can to address this infestation and we need your help. We are actively rejuvenating our CBI efforts to monitor boat activity on the lake this summer. If you are willing to volunteer or serve as a paid inspector this summer please let me know. If you know of others that might be interested, please ask them to contact me as well.

Our main goal has always been to defend against invasive aquatic species from entering our wonderful lake, now we are trying to defend against further spread of the invasive plants. Thanks to the past efforts of our CBI Inspectors, the program continues to mature and become more effective, however we need to enhance our efforts of protecting Alamoosook Lake. More inspection time at the boat launch, and more training for inspectors and boaters that use the lake is needed.

Many of those enjoying the lake are becoming more aware of the program and familiar with the efforts to stop invasive species, we must keep up these efforts. This is our first line of defense, to ensure the boaters are performing self inspections and cleaning their boats, with the guidance of our inspector we hope to ensure that they continue to do just that.

We are planning for the 2022 season and need support from members of the Association to continue the success of the CBI Program. We are seeking motivated volunteers to join this important effort! All you need to bring to the program is your time, a smile, and some people skills. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer inspector please email Charlie Dodge at cdodg0629@gmail.com or call at 210-863-1105.

The Message: Please CLEAN, DRAIN & DRY your Watercraft!

ICE OUT April 2! Mark Sawyer is the winner of the Don Blodgett Trophy.

Below and Next page: Notes from John Greenman regarding Maine Lakes webinars

I had the opportunity recently (thanks to a Maine Lakes webinar) to be introduced to "How's My Waterway?" an EPA website that provides the public with an easily accessible and understandable picture of water quality on three scales: community, state, and national. Communities use How's My Waterway to learn about their watershed. How's My Waterway answers questions about aquatic life, eating fish, swimming, drinking water, restoration and protection. The web presentation focused on what information is available on the site and how it can be used to inform citizens about their water.

For a really good introduction to this resource, I recommend this recording, available at:

<https://youtu.be/hI33PKhV-WU>

The website: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>

MAINE LAKES Conference Webinars celebrate 50 years of the Clean Water Act!

Link to register and view archived recordings:

<https://www.lakes.me/maine-lakes-conference>

April 6: *Living Shorelines*, April 20: *Valuing the Economic Benefits of Maine's Great Ponds in the 21st Century*, May 4: *Maine's Freshwater Education Collaborative*, May 18: *Getting into the Habit(at): Assessing Shallow Water Habitat in Maine Lakes*.

Archived Webinars: Maine's Loon Stewardship Project, Managing Road Salt for Lake Protection, Lake Protection and Water Quality on Tribal Lands of the Penobscot Nation, How's

Invasive Plant Patrol Training Dates in Hancock County

Starting Now! Online Invasive Plant Patrol online course:

<https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/invasive-plant-patrol-workshops/>

May 4 (Wed.) 5:30 pm : Online CBI Training

<https://lakesenvironmentalassociation.wufoo.com/forms/z3k416t1vsehhk/>

TBD (May-June) Specialized online training in Milfoil identification for ALA & AACT

July 12 Tues. 10-12:30 Plant Paddle hosted by

Mark Whiting & Catherine Fox- Branch Lake

July 28 Thurs. TBD Plant Paddle hosted by ALA on Alamoosook (with added CBI review)

Aug. 9 Tues. TBD Plant Identification workshop (outside) shore of Flanders Pond

All throughout August: complete surveying of Alamoosook to be conducted.

Please contact Katie at

kgreenman@zwi.net or 207-735-7552 if you'd like to join AACT or participate in any of the above trainings. More detailed info will be sent out prior to any of the in-person trainings.

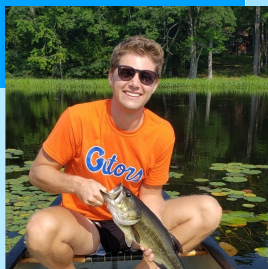
Hello fellow paddlers, fishers, and swimmers of Alamoosook Lake! My name is Matthew Ball. While I know many of you, if we haven't met, please see this as an open invite to come by and say hello.

My family inhabits Baker Island during the summer months. We have owned the island for more than 3 generations now, and I can assure you that the camp hasn't changed much over that time span. As you may have heard, we have no power or running water on the island and work hard to escape and get lost in the magic of simplicity and unplug from modern amenities. However, if you have a hot tub we are open to an invitation but I can't promise we won't bring our biodegradable soap with us haha. While we miss hot showers, we have learned to embrace the "rugged" lifestyle and gain an appreciation for the natural beauty of the lake and the people who share our same affinity for it.

I grew up coming to this lake and so much of our family's history is defined from our time at Alamoosook. Everything from canoeing races, sailing, fishing and adventures that the lake provides has given me a continued gratitude and passion for the preservation of the lake's legacy and all the memories that are associated with its long-term sustainability.

Apart from our time at Alamoosook, I live and work in Boston for an investment bank. I have a beautiful and much smarter fiancé, Andrea, who works as a municipal bond trader for Fidelity. When I brought Andrea to our camp for the first time, she was completely unfazed by the primitive nature of our toilet situation, and after that moment, I knew it was meant to be! We are planning to get married this summer (barring another global pandemic) and as Baker Island tradition calls for part of our honeymoon will be at the lake.

My parents are both retired, which mostly consists of my Mom (Cynthia) reading a murder mystery novel and my Dad (Lance) playing golf regularly. Apart from my parents, I have 2 sisters and a brother, all of which join us on the island during our time there. While I hope I was able to provide background on myself, I'd love to invite you to tea on the front porch to learn more about you.



Meet Matt Ball (above, right) and photo (right), nominee for Board of Directors