



In the Newsletter:

Page 2: an article from Charleyne Gilbert about the IPP

Page 3: A letter from the President

Page 4: winter photos from Uli Guthrie

DUES ARE DUE! \$20/year. Mail check to ALA, P.O. Box 464, Orland, Maine 04472. It's tax deductible!



Summer is Coming!

Dates to Remember:

June 22: Orland River Day! Help needed with booth staffing, and float for parade!

June 25: Membership meeting and potluck dinner at Alamoosook Lakeside Inn

August 20: Family Picnic and Meeting at Alamoosook Lakeside Inn

2019 Don Blodgett Ice-Out Trophy Up for Grabs

Last year a determination of "Ice-Out" definition was made in response to a request from Maine Lakes Society. They are keeping track of as many lakes as possible in order to chart trends. Alamoosook's definition was decided to be "navigable open water from the North Shore to Meadow Brook." That was April 15 in 2018 and Gina Bushong was the correct guesser. She will relinquish the trophy at the June 25 meeting. You may submit your date on the FaceBook page or by emailing the secretary:

anne@alamoosooklakeassociation.org , please send a second choice as your date may be taken.



FUN IN THE HUNT: GETTING TO KNOW AQUATIC PLANTS

Charleyne Gilbert

Whoever thought helping preserve the health of the lake could be so much FUN! Thank you, Katie for introducing me to the Lake Stewards of Maine. Keeping the 11 invasives found in Maine out of Alamoosook is a worthy goal.

Identifying invasive plants early is crucial; recreating among healthy plants can be rewarding. A sunny day, a waiting kayak, and an interest in preserving the water quality of the lake all provide the perfect opportunity for exploring the plant growth: floating bladderwort, little floating hearts, clasping-leaf pondweed, water buttercup, water starwort, alternate-flowered water-milfoil, water marigold, spatterdock and more.

If you've ever wondered what's growing along your shore or in your swimming area, the Alamoosook All Clear team is a FUN way to find out. The training, the resources, the follow-up, the feedback, and the support are all first-rate and nonjudgmental. The experts even visited our lake this past summer to examine our suspicious specimens. It was a FUN, informative afternoon. Luckily, we were "all clear." Please help us keep it that way by joining the team, Alamoosook All Clear.

Dear Members,

The winter has been a roller coaster of temperature extremes on Alamoosook and across Maine this year with alternating ice and snow, balmy spring days and deep freeze blasts! Sadly it's the wave of the future with growing climate disruption. It's also been a time for following public hearings on Maine legislative bills introduced to protect water quality.

Yesterday (February 23), being bright and sunny, we went walking across Meadow Brook cove with our son and very pregnant daughter-in-law and enjoyed the views of Great Pond Mt., the Buck and Saumsiegle camps snowed in but also looking expectant. Off in the distance near the deep hole stands a solitary ice fishing hut and across from our cabin a group of winter enthusiasts were partying along the shore.

In November, the lake lost John Farnham, a neighbor in our cove . He was very supportive of the 319 grant and the culvert work completed on Meadow Brook Lane, the road he maintained for many years. We've also just learned that Linda Plourde and her sister have sold their camp on Alamoosook. Linda will be focusing her watershed protection efforts on Silver Lake. We will miss Linda and Arthur at our membership meetings.

Now that the funding has ended for the Alamoosook Watershed Protection grant we are now on our own as stewards of waterfront property. We will continue to educate ourselves and spread the word about best practices when it comes to fixing soil erosion problems that contribute excess nutrients to the lake. Zack Steele of HCSWCD has completed the final reports and shared them with the ALA Board. Copies will be available at the June meeting.

The Alamoosook All Clear Team will be energizing for a second summer of plant surveying. We have room for more volunteers!

Our two new directors, Charlie Dodge and Pete Walton have stepped up to explore what it will take to get a Courtesy Boat Inspection up and running at the Hatchery's boat launch this summer. Monitoring the traffic and inspection needs will be a big part of this summer's focus. Toddy Pond Association CBI coordinators have generously shared detailed notes on their program.

An ad-hoc committee on financial investment for the Dam Contingency Fund led by treasurer Mary Jane Cullinan will be coming up with recommendations for the board to consider at our next meeting on May 14th.

I extend my appreciation to the directors on the ALA Board who are committed to working on your behalf and all who offer their support and volunteer in a variety of ways.

Ice-out is not far off! Until then we'll continue to enjoy this time for indoor projects and outdoor adventures and look forward to reuniting with all of you come summer.

Hoping you have enjoyed good health this winter with plenty of time to reflect on the gifts of our natural world,

Katie

Winter Textures and Patterns are Startlingly Beautiful



@ Uli Guthrie



@ Uli Guthrie



@ Uli Guthrie



@Uli Guthrie

An IPP note from Anne:

Identifying plants seems pretty overwhelming to me, so I made a start by really studying—one at a time. Here's my first observation. Hope for more in spring and summer.

Below: Culvert work from 319 Grant



Know Your Natives (IPP Observations)

Watershield

This graceful plant emerges from the sandy floor of the lake on salmon-red strands of willow stems. The baby pads appear, sub-surface, as small wheat-brown tacos with shiny, limey green interiors. As they grow toward the surface, they unroll and present the perfect shield-shape for insect hopscotching. The earthy underside reddens up to burgundy and the slick green topside begins to show signs of wear and tear—holes, ragged edges, and colors changing to golds, rusts and sap greens. Peer through the holes and underneath see the network of coral stems and more emerging scrolls of shields. It's a small plant, but there's a lot going on!

Keep in Touch!

Your Board of Directors: Katie Greenman, president. Joe Giard, vice-president. Anne Buck Davis, secretary. Mary Jane Cullinan, treasurer. Chip Stubbs. Fred Blodgett. Tad Van Leer. Charlie Dodge. Pete Walton.