

ALAMOOSOOK LAKE ASSOCIATION

LATE WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER
WWW.ALAMOOSOOKLAKEASSOCIATION.ORG

Don Blodgett Memorial Ice-Out Contest Returns for 2021

2020-2021 has been an interesting and different ice year. The ice “went out” early and was very capricious coming in. Thanks to John Greenman for charting this for us:

ALAMOOSOOK LAKE, ORLAND MIDAS 4336

Year	Ice In (final)	Ice Out
2007-08		4/23/08
2009-10		3/18/10
2011-12		3/20/12
2014-15		4/21/15
2015-16		3/13/16
2016-17		4/14/17
2017-18	12/16/17	4/15/18
2018-19	11/20/18	4/16/19
2019-20	12/17/19	3/27/20
2020-21	1/11/21	
ICE IN= Final freeze-over date (not skim ice)		
ICE-OUT= Lake navigable from Meadow Bk to north shores		

Fay Page is the reigning champion guesser. Email your guesses to: anne@alamoosooklakeassociation.org. Choose a 2nd guess in case someone beats you to your first.



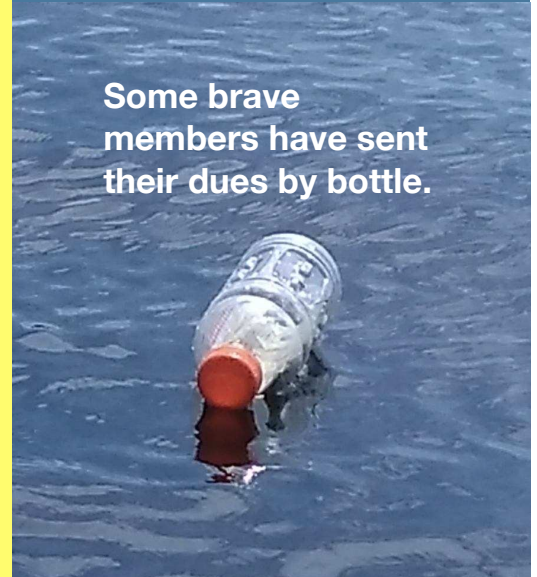
WINTER FUN ON THE LAKE (Winter Weekend)

One of the best kept secrets has always been the splendor of winter on the lake. Nearly 40 years ago, the Larsons, Mushralls and Van de Bogarts got together to share the fun with some of the summer folk. They came for a weekend in the coldest part of the winter: potluck at the Larson's on Friday night, skiing or snowshoeing on Saturday to check their camps, all kinds of fun on the ice, hot dog and bean lunch at Mushrall's, dinner in Bucksport on Saturday night, and breakfast Sunday at Duffy's! Ernie created mementoes of the weekend in wood—wonderful keepsakes. When he died in 2004, it marked the end of Winter Weekends.

Later, Gina Bushong, who owned the Alamoosook Lakeside Inn, brought back the tradition, and a new generation developed friendships in pj's around the fire. Potlucks and square dances inside and ice-skating, bonfire, and winter games outside were highlights. The Stubbs, Dibiasse and Giard families cooked hot dogs and hamburgers out in the snow, even fried a turkey!

Please remember to pay your 2021 dues. \$20—tax deductible. Mail check to ALA, Box 464, Orland 04472 or use the PayPal button on the website:
www.alamoosooklakeassociation.org

**Some brave
members have sent
their dues by bottle.**



MARCH ON ALAMOOSOOK

It's a time of waiting, whether it's the first or second vaccination, a time we can safely gather with family and friends, for the hugs we have missed, and the camaraderie of community. It's a time of remembering those we have sadly lost and a time to welcome new members. We hope you'll enjoy the articles assembled for this newsletter and find ways that you too can participate in Alamoosook's stewardship.

Your Board of Directors is always interested in hearing from you. With warm wishes,
Katie Greenman, president

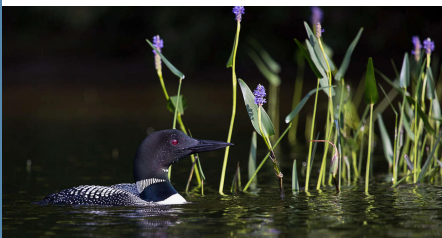
Necropsy on Loon found in Lake July 2020

Necropsy Performed 10/6/2020 by Michelle Kneeland

Gross Diagnosis: 1) Fungal Respiratory Disease; 2) Parasitism.

Summary of Gross Findings: Adult male in very thin body condition, evidence of somewhat recent puncture wound just caudal to sternum, but no significant internal trauma. Severity of fungal disease indicates it was likely the cause of death, but severe parasitism and poor body condition also a factor. (Tapeworms in small intestine - heavy burden.)

Suggestions from them to ALA: monitor water quality and give loons plenty of space.



To contact your board:

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pictured :Little Floating Hearts in Meadow Brook Cove on Alamoosook

In Praise of Native Aquatic Plants or What's this Plant Doing in "my" Cove?

Every summer members of the Alamoosook All Clear Team are asked questions by property owners or visitors to the lake about some aquatic plant that seems to be growing exponentially in a cove or along a shoreline.

Some that flower above the surface, like the pickerel weed and fragrant water lily enhance the landscape. Others, that entangle our legs below the surface like the little floating heart and various waterweeds, raise questions as to their value. But valuable they are!

Native aquatic plants:

- Provide essential habitat for wildlife!
- Protect water quality!
- Enhance biological diversity and beauty!
- Occupy areas that would otherwise be available to invasive aquatic plants!

Sometimes there are cyclical blooms. In 2016 an explosion of a native waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*) showed up on the north shore near the Dead River inlet. Thanks to our member's sample and Roberta Hill of Lake Stewards of Maine's quick identification from photo and description we could be assured that this plant was acting normally in its "boom/bust" cycle: an explosive growth (contd on page 3)

Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program

Great News! ALA receives grant to continue keeping an eagle eye on Alamoosook Lake.

The Ram Island Conservation Fund has awarded the Alamoosook Lake Association a \$25,000 grant to continue the important work of our Courtesy Boat Inspection (CBI) Program for the next five years!

Karen Young for Ram Island stated in the grant notification that "they were very impressed with ALA's commitment to the lake and the growth of the various monitoring and inspection programs".

The additional funding will allow us to continue monitoring boats entering the lake and extend efforts to provide information regarding the threat of invasive species, and how to defend against their spread. The first line of defense remains the boaters themselves, all are encouraged to perform self inspections and to clean, drain, and dry their boats. The hard work of the volunteers and paid inspectors are the heart and soul of the CBI program.

Courtesy inspections are expected to begin in late June and continue thru Labor Day. We are seeking motivated volunteers to join this important effort! All you need to bring is your love of the lake and a smile. A 3-hour shift every 2-3 weeks, or whatever you can commit, is all it takes.

ALA remains committed to preventing invasive aquatic species from entering our wonderful lake. We require support from members to accomplish this goal. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer inspector please email your CBI Committee Chair, Charlie Dodge at cdodge0629@gmail.com or call/text at 210-863-1105.

(Native plants contd)

for a year or so is followed by a crash.

And then there's the metaphyton (a filamentous algae) which frankly looks quite nasty when it rises from the lake bottom in cloudy masses to the surface in toxic-looking bubbles of trouble. It's not toxic but arrives in blooms and rising lake temperatures may be a cause.

All native aquatic plants, rooted and unrooted are strictly protected by Maine's Natural Resource Protection act. Removal of aquatic plants may be done on a VERY LIMITED basis under the State's "Permit-By-Rule" process. The easiest and most environmentally friendly way for us to act is to live with the "boom" cycle for a season or two, and wait for the "bust." The fishes will thank you.

This summer when you're out swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, or paddle boarding, take a look at the plants. Are they undulating below, grasping rocks, floating on the surface? What shapes are the leaves? Do they look familiar? Are you intrigued and want to learn more?

There's always room for more on the Alamoosook All Clear (Invasive Plant Patrol) Team.

Contact katie at kgreenman@ghi.net or 207-735-7552 We'd be excited to have you surveying with us as we paddle to our goal of the entire shoreline by the end of summer 2022.

Check out:

GoBotany: <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/>

EYES ON THE FOREST

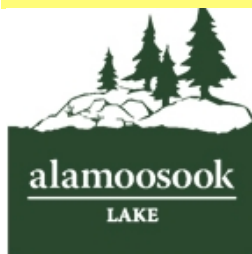
Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, Hemlock Scale, Hemlock Looper and Browntail Moth

If you missed entomologist Colleen Teerling's presentation at ALA's August 2020 membership meeting on the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid it's still posted on ALA's website, worth watching and reviewing. She touches on the Hemlock Scale as well. The looper (moth) is another pest that favors the hemlock, while the Brown-Tail moth favors deciduous trees.

We're getting close to the time when the overwintering generation of adult adelgids are going to lay 300 eggs within a white woolly covering. The crawlers will hatch starting in April when it's no longer recommended to do trimming and removal. Trimming back branches that might brush against cars or trucks or your own head must be done soon to mitigate transfer of crawlers.

The winter webs of the browntail moth are 2-5 inches long, white silk tightly woven around a leaf or leaves hiding small brown hairy larvae within, mostly on twig ends of oak, shadbush, apple, cherry, beach plum and rugosa rose.

Read more at Maine Forest Service websites for each of these insects (easy google searches) and/or write to Colleen Teerling with any concerning finds or questions to help protect the forests around Alamoosook Lake. colleen.teerling@maine.gov



Stay safe and stay in touch. Plan for an August 3 zoom membership meeting with our local game warden, Christopher Roy.