

Alamoosook Lake Association

Early Summer 2023 Newsletter

Is Alamoosook Infested with Variable Water Milfoil or Not?

That is the question we've all been asking. While every sample taken in 2022 was confirmed as native alternate-flowered milfoil, the late season 2021 sample results leave us with a suspected unwanted variant, perhaps a hybrid invasive milfoil species. At this time, we acknowledge the uncertainty and plan our action.

It's going to take 2 years of intensive survey work, Maine DEP sampling, and lab testing to find out! While we have a very committed team, everyone can pitch in by keeping a lookout for suspicious-looking milfoils and calling them to the team's attention. We are definitely in this together. Fortunately, Aquatic Invasive Plant staff at Lake Stewards of Maine and Maine DEP and Hancock County expert Mark Whiting have promised their assistance.

In May members of the Alamoosook Invasive Milfoil Response Team met to review the 2021-2022 testing results and make an initial plan for our 2023 surveying effort. Luc Bernacki of the St. Joseph's College Lab was on hand to explain the testing process in more detail and why we need to remain on alert. The testing Luc does compares DNA from the plant in question with other DNA amplifications from natives and invasives and determines whether the sample is native or invasive. The more advanced and technical testing by sequencing DNA is used to more closely identify the species. Unfortunately, the 2021 sample material was no longer viable to do sequencing in 2022. Luc will be prioritizing Alamoosook samples this summer and results will come much faster than previously. He is committed to helping us solve the mystery.

Want to learn more?

*Contact one of the team and ask to join them on a paddle to be introduced to aquatic plants.

*Look over the side of your boats and see the diversity of plant life that keeps our lake healthy, offers wildlife habitat and food, and protects our shorelines from erosion.

*Have fun exploring info and webinars available on the Lake Stewards of Maine website at <https://www.lakestewardsofmaine.org/>, visit <https://maineaquaticfieldguide.org/#/> for LSM's "Maine Field Guide to Aquatic Phenomena" (should be available as an app again soon) and enjoy researching the "simple key" with aquatic plants on Go Botany at <https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org> (cont. on p. 2)

All Welcome! Membership Meeting
Tuesday June 27, 5 pm
Alamoosook Lakeside Inn

Potluck Picnic Supper (weather permitting) with
an informal Q&A time afterwards
If you can help with set up, please contact a
board member.



The Annual Audubon Loon Count will be held Saturday, July 15. Fred Blodgett and Gina Bushong will be heading up the Count. The post-count gathering will be held at the Buck Camp (Sally Short).

Loon Restoration Project

On a cold day in early May, Chip and Katie took two reps from the Maine Loon Restoration Project on a tour of Alamoosook, looking at potential nesting spots and risk factors to successful hatching of chicks. We need to monitor loon pairs to determine the need for raft placement. Info will be shared at the post-loon count gathering. Keep notes on pairs and locations you see them. Please watch from a distance. Any volunteers to coordinate this project?



The team (AACT) at present includes: Gina Bushong, Anne Buck Davis, Charleyne Gilbert, Katie Greenman, Uli Guthrie, Mark and Kelly Sawyer, Mary Murray, Carolyn Oldenburg and family, Martha Pedrick, Miriam Tatum and just at the time of writing, ALA president Tad Van Leer has come on board.

All on the team from 2022 and before have participated in one or more plant paddles with LSM staff, attended plant identification workshops, almost half are certified, many have been surveying for native and invasive aquatic plants since 2018. What a fascinating, learning journey it's been. To be continued!



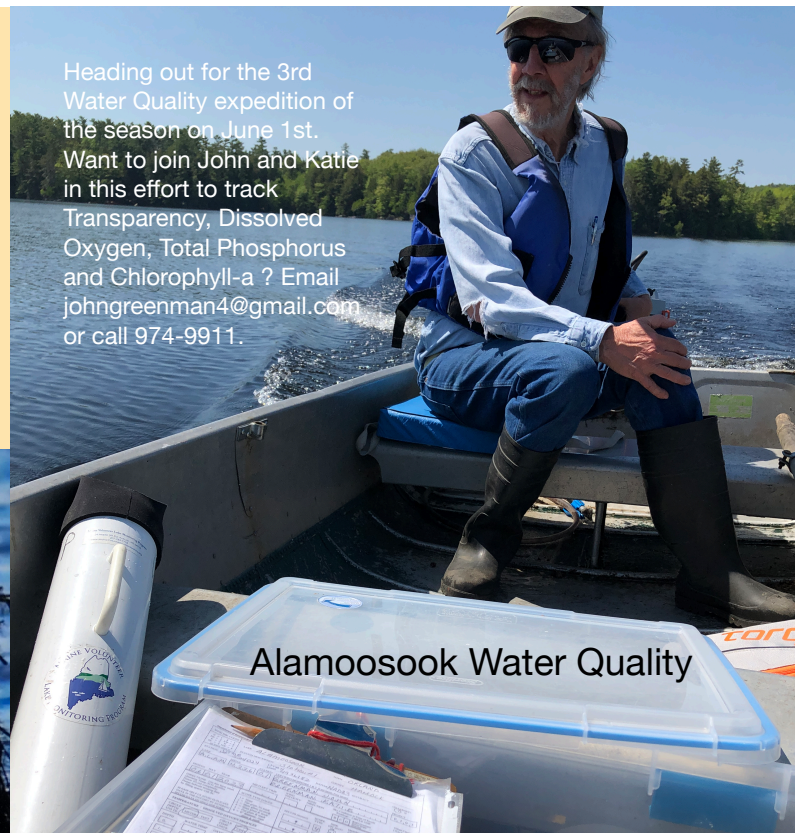
above: rootball of the invasive milfoil (photo courtesy LSM)

left: have you seen this plant? if so, contact an AACT member

Dates to Remember:
June 27 Membership meeting
July 4 Boat Parade
July 15 Loon Count

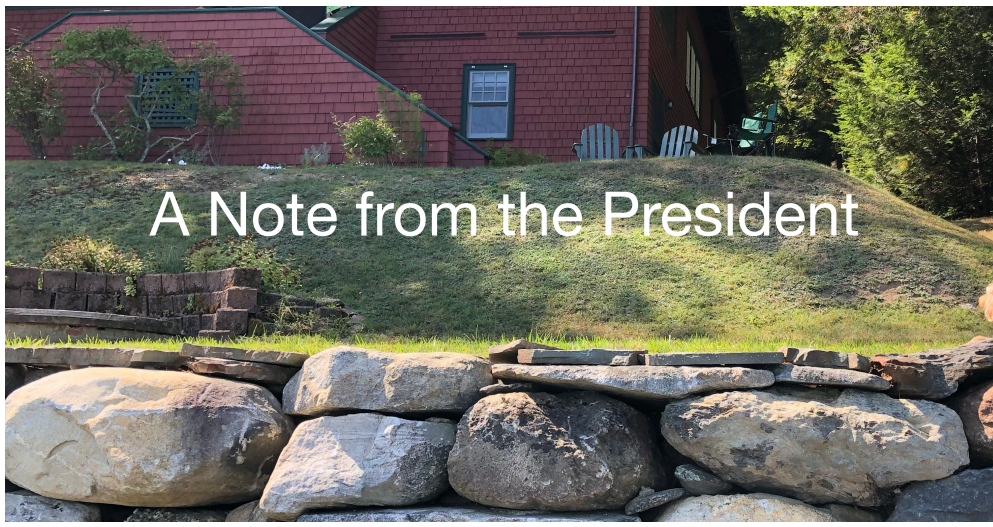
Dues may be paid at the meeting or (better yet), send by mail to PO box 464, Orland, or pay on the website

Heading out for the 3rd Water Quality expedition of the season on June 1st. Want to join John and Katie in this effort to track Transparency, Dissolved Oxygen, Total Phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a ? Email johngreenman4@gmail.com or call 974-9911.



At the last ALA membership meeting in August of 2022, members asked John and Katie for comparison data of phosphorus levels in Toddy Pond and Alamoosook. The data is posted on the Lakes of Maine linked with Lake Stewards of Maine's website, but recent data has not been added. This is a work in progress that Linda Bacon, Limnologist and Lake Assessment Section Leader for the Bureau of Water Quality, Maine DEP, assures me will be done this summer. All lake data has to be reviewed by DEP staff and then Linda will post the updates. With that in mind the comparisons provided here won't be current, nor will they be truly comparative since on Toddy the volunteer does surface grabs for testing and we do core sampling which takes samples from all depths. Linda says it's not exactly apples to oranges, more like Macintosh to Cortland. Some discrepancies may exist depending on weather conditions when samples are taken. Toddy is also much deeper at their "deep hole" which is perhaps why only surface grabs are done.

According to Linda, Toddy Pond Station #1 water that flows via Toddy Stream into Alamoosook has approximately half the concentration of phosphorus that Alamoosook has. Historically, it was the transparency data that alerted Maine DEP to a problem on Alamoosook. We all know that the Hatchery has impacted phosphorus levels, changing the levels from 7 parts per billion in the mid 1990s to 14 ppb in 2012. Since then, after the Hatchery instituted feed and filtering changes there's only been one test result of 14 ppb; year averages for our 3 core sample tests (in July, Aug., Sept.) are 2019 (10 ppb), 2020 (10 ppb), 2021 (12 ppb) and 2022 (11 ppb). But these are still above desired levels and ALA hopes to hear from the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery about mitigation efforts under consideration. Alamoosook has to its advantage 7 flushes a year thanks to the amount of water flowing into the lake and released over the dam and through the gate. The annual testing and tracking data are crucial to understanding changes over time and alerts us to potential problems. Training is available for those who want to help with water quality. To be continued!



A Note from the President

Good Day
Alamoosook,

Greetings from a cold and rainy day along the lake. I look forward to seeing everyone on or about the lake this year.

I hope everyone who is in the area will attend **our annual Alamoosook Lake Association meeting on June 27 at 5:00 PM at the Alamoosook Lodge**. The board of the ALA is working in many areas to preserve the lake and bring those associated with Alamoosook, together in friendship. We would appreciate your ideas and comments on new directions and ideas. Please feel free to contact me directly- my email is tadvanleer@gmail.com or cell phone 201-572-0844.

Currently the ALA is focused on the following:

1. Alamoosook Lake Water Quality
2. The "Invasive" Plant Mystery and next steps
3. Current Update from the Dam Committee
4. Bringing the Alamoosook Community together

Water Quality

1. In April 2023 a compliance agreement was signed between the Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery & US Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of Environmental Protection Agency. The Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery in Orland, Maine, is to take immediate specific actions to reduce the amount of phosphorus it discharges to Alamoosook Lake.

2. John Greenman continues to take water quality measurements on a regular basis. John tests for lake clarity, phosphate levels, oxygen levels at different depths, water temperatures at different depths. If you are interested in helping and learning please contact John.

3. Charlie Dodge and Pete Walton continue to lead the Alamoosook Lake Courtesy Boat Inspection Team. This team inspects, with the boat owner's approval, all boats that use the fish hatchery launch, for invasive plants and animals carried on incoming boats. This is our primary defense against all invasive pests. We still need volunteers so please contact Charlie for information.

Invasive Plant Mystery and Potential Solutions

I am not technical so I this is a very brief update. In the summer of 2021 a sample was submitted for testing that was "believed" to be an invasive milfoil species, subsequent tests were inconclusive. As a result of the initial test, Alamoosook was labeled an "Infested Lake". Katie Greenman and her team Charleyne Gilbert, Gina Bushong, Chip Stubbs, are working with the Maine DEP, Lake Stewards of Maine, a number of labs, to survey Alamoosook in designated areas, mark the suspicious plant with buoys, (PLEASE KEEP AWAY FROM BOUYS AS TO NOT SPREAD SUSPECTED PLANT) and have DEP divers come in the last week of July to take samples, and covey the samples to the labs for analysis. We should then have a much clearer picture of next steps. Katie and her team will have an in depth talk and the ALA meeting. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO SURVEY THE LAKE.

Update on the Dams

To date we have not had any feed back on AIM's proposed actions to remedy the issues brought up in the Maine DEP reports on the serious deficiencies at both the Alamoosook and Toddy Pond dams. Matt Ball, chairman, Chipper Stubbs and Joe Giard are guiding our efforts.

Social Committee

Lisa Deweese, Lynn Ames, Commodore Chip Stubbs, and Tad Van Leer will be presenting a program to bring ALA members together. Our first event is the Annual Meeting- please attend on June 27.

At our annual meeting we will also nominate Peggy Sturmfel to the board. Peg has grown up on Alamoosook and has multiple experiences which we believe will make the board more effective.

Lastly I look forward in seeing you at the annual meeting. I also ask that those receiving the newsletter log on to the Alamoosook Association website <https://alamoosooklakeassociation.org/> and pay the 2023 dues if not already done.

Kindest regards,

Tad Van Leer

JULY 4 on Alamoosook—always a big event!

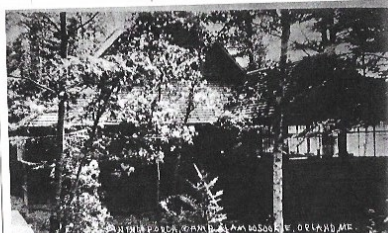
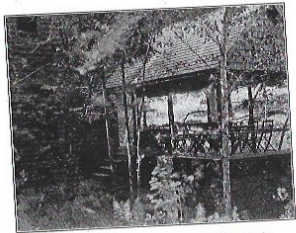
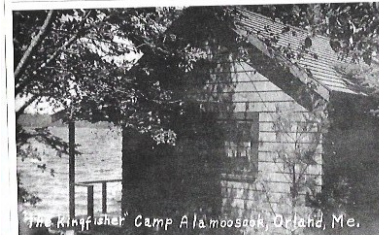
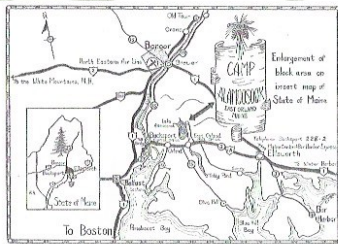
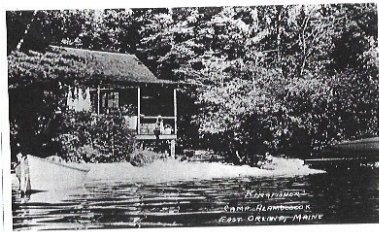
Boat parade commences in front of Stubbs camp at 9:30 am, proceeding counterclockwise around the lake. Join in early or late. Show your spirit.





A LITTLE BIT of History (east side)

Alamoosook has a more interesting (older) history than many other lakes. For thousands of years, this was a place of sustenance for people and wildlife. With the arrival of Europeans came changes as it was recognized as an economic resource. Robert Treat built the first dam in 1774 and camps, mills, and the Hatchery followed in the 1800's. Charles Atkins, founder of the Hatchery, was married to Nellie Moses of Bucksport. They purchased the land from Charles and Rufus Page in 1892 (who had purchased it from William Wilson in 1888). After she was widowed, Nellie sold some of the property to Evelyn Buck (1928—Camp Alamoosook) and to Stella Streeter (1933). Another Atkins, Marian Atkins Alexander, left the property her daughter, who sold it to the Gillettes and to Hazel Woodworth. All these people were from New Jersey, many of them teachers. Several of the Camp Alamoosook campers went on to purchase land on that side of the lake: notably the Gollinotts, Waltons and Mary Clindinning(?) (later Price) and Ruth Millspaugh. Many of these camps have been sold and improved over the years, some (like the Waltons' and the Gollinott-Schulster's) are still in the families. The map, left, though out of date, points out the locations of some of the late 19th and early 20th century structures. Next issue: Emerson Point and the Outlet. If you have interesting history regarding this area, please send it to Anne Buck Davis at alsbdavis@epbfi.com



left: postcards from Camp Alamoosook
above: picnic at the Hatchery, late 1800's

Enjoy Summer!



