



Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association

Spring 2005 Newsletter

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Vice President

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Newsletter

Doug Whitley

Annual Meeting:

The Loon Center

Saturday, July 23

9:00 am

President's Message

It had been years since I thought about frog collecting. Tucked away in my memory till some recent events brought it back. What is frog collecting? It was something my sister and I used to do for fun and profit. Basically it involved walking the shoreline in front of our summer home on Kanasatka, finding frogs, and putting them in a minnow bucket.

When we had a sufficient amount, we took the bucket to the Weeks bait shop in Meredith and sold the frogs. A nickel per frog times (maybe) 20 frogs.....that was a dollar! Now I am talking about the late 1950's here, that was a pretty good wage for a kid in those days. Frogs were valuable.

So what brought on this nostalgia? It was at a Lake Kanasatka Watershed meeting a few years ago. The speaker was talking about the ecology of the lake, talking about changes, and he asked if we had noticed any changes. He listed several examples. When he mentioned frogs and their possible decline, that is when those memories of frog marketeering came back.

Yes! Back then there used to be a lot more frogs than there are today. In the late spring and early summer we could see and catch dozens of tadpoles, or polliwogs, swimming in the shallow water.

I can still feel them wiggling in my hand. Later on in the summer, when we walked along the shore, several frogs would jump out in front of our footsteps into the water. Now, I can't remember the last time I saw a frog jump before me or even a single tadpole.

With these thoughts in mind, this past March I attended a small workshop on 'frog monitoring' to seek out information. I found there are actually two frog monitoring programs being conducted at this time: the North American Amphibian Monitoring Program or NAAMP which is federally funded by the USGS and the Frog Watch Program funded by the National Wildlife Federation. Links to both of these programs can be found on the LKWA website. Both of these programs have the same goal: monitor and maintain a database on the amphibian population of our lakes, ponds, marshes, etc. Why single out frogs to monitor? As with the old practice of using a canary in a coal mine as an early warning alarm of bad air, the frog can be thought of as an early warning alarm for problems in an environment. When changes start taking place in the wildlife habitat or changes in the quality of the

water and air, the amphibian population is one of the first to be affected.

Are the changes in the frog population that I have witnessed just localized here in front of our home or is the problem more widespread? Is the whole watershed affected? Are all the lakes in this region affected? The frog monitoring programs are looking for the answers. As an association we have the opportunity to help monitor and record changes in our watershed. We can coordinate and exchange information with other associations and agencies to get an wider scope of any potential problem. The Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association presently participates in the NH Lakes Lay Water Monitoring Program run by the Center for Freshwater Biology at UNH. We

test for water quality and greenness. This year we plan on expanding those tests to include a more extensive chemical analysis. This information will be shared with the coordinator of the Frog Watch Program.

What else can we do? Be observant. Note any changes that you might have seen over the years on Lake Kanasatka, whether it is the wildlife or the vegetation and pass that information on. The more information that we have about our watershed, the clearer our picture of the quality of our lake will be. I promise I won't be collecting any more frogs. This time I will be listening for their sounds at dusk and looking for their return to the shoreline. Frogs are still valuable.

John Scudder - President

LOON CHICK!!!



In July there was much cause for celebration on the lake when a few people saw a loon chick swimming on or along side its parent. The news spread quickly as Lake Kanasatka had not had a loon chick for seven years. Its most welcomed appearance meant that our mating pair of loons had successfully protected their egg from predation. Several people reported seeing two chicks but alas only one survived.

There is much danger to a new chick after it is hatched. During the first four weeks, loon chicks have limited ability to dive and maneuver making them vulnerable to predation. Known predators to loon chicks include snapping turtles, eagles, and some gull species.

As the chick grew, the parents could give the little one more freedom. The chick provided us with much entertainment over the

summer as we watched it learn to dive and fly and become an expert swimmer. In October the parents flew to their winter home while the baby waited until November when it was strong enough to fly that distance. We do not know the exact winter destination of Kanasatka's mating pair, although loons from New England are among the populations wintering off the Atlantic coast. Band recoveries from New Hampshire loons on the wintering grounds suggest that our population likely remains off the coast of Maine south along coastal Massachusetts into Long Island Sound.

Furthermore, the Loon Preservation Committee currently has a satellite transmitters implanted in three adult loons from Lake Umbagog. Transmitters are being used as part of an investigation into the rapid decline in the loon population on that lake; and, in addition, the satellite telemetry has provided valuable information in general on the timing, routes and locations of these migrating loons.

Our loon chick will stay in its winter residence for approximately three years before it returns to the lakes. It is not known if our chick will return to Kanasatka, although on average, chicks return to water bodies within 5-10 miles of their natural lake. However, we do know that the chick was a highlight of the Summer of 2004.

Laurie Whitley – Vice President

Water Quality Report:

2004 was the 22nd year that the Lake Kanasatka was monitored in conjunction with the NH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program run by the Center for Freshwater Biology at UNH. Sampling was performed between April 14 and September 26, 2004 with Bob Craycraft from UNH doing more in-depth testing on August 5, 2004.

As in previous years, our lake continues to be in good shape, showing very little change from year to year. Our Water Clarity continues to fall in the “pristine” category while “greenness” remains below 3 ppb, well within the historical values documented since 1983. One area that we haven’t reported on is the resistance of our Lake against acid precipitation, measured as total alkalinity. As a result of natural geological conditions, most lakes in the vicinity (Squam

Lake, Lake Winnepesaukee and Mirror Lake) have naturally low alkalinities that are near or less than 7.0 mg/L. The Lake Kanasatka alkalinity is nearly double (14.5 mg/L) that of other nearby lakes, thus making Lake Kanasatka less susceptible to acid rain.

One area of expressed concern has been to see what levels of bacteria are in our lake. This has not been measured by the current Lake Monitoring program for various reasons, but is something that is a relatively inexpensive measurement and can be done locally. We will have at least one test performed this year.

We are fortunate that our Lake continues to be in good shape. Thanks again this year to the Lauterwassers and McRaes for their continued dedication in monitoring our water quality.

Doug Whitley – Water Quality Coordinator

Note: Ice Out was on April 13th at 12:42 pm, per Icemiester John McRae

Please Help Us Keep Our Records Up To Date:

Name: _____

Summer Address: (June through August)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Winter Address: (September through May)

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____



**Check out our Website:
www.kanasatka.org**

**Annual Meeting:
The Loon Center
Saturday, July 23
9:00 am**

Mail to: Lake Kanasatka Watershed Association
P.O. Box 774
Center Harbor, NH 03226

Baseball, fishin' or jumpin' and jive
Join us and drive your boat in!
THE ANNUAL LAKE KANASATKA
4th of JULY BOAT PARADE
THEME: GREAT AMERICAN PASTIMES
DATE: Monday, July 4th, 2005 at 2:00 pm (rain or shine)
PLACE: Line up at Animal Island or Cheer from the Shore
ALL ENTIES WELCOME – Canoes to Motorboats, Party boats to
Sailboats. Dress up and Join the Fun!
See you there – Jane Fairchild, Boat Parade Committee