



CHINA LAKE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 1

Summer 2005

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Presidents Report

I am trying to dry out after spending a soggy morning on and around the lake. While I had hoped for a dryer start to my vacation week Mother Nature had other ideas. We have survived the wettest May in history with the China Lake Watershed receiving over 18 inches of rain during that time. Climatic factors can have a large impact on a lake's water quality. The Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program has been collecting water quality data on nearly 400 Maine lakes with data on some lakes going back nearly 30 years! Some generalizations that can be drawn from past MVLMP data is that clean lakes are cleaner in dry years and lakes with algae problems have better water quality in wet years. Why is this? It appears that water draining into clean lakes carries more pollutants (phosphorus) than is in the lake and lots of runoff will hurt the water quality. Lakes with phosphorus problems and seasonal algae blooms can benefit from the effect of dilution from more runoff and can show improved water quality in wet years. Also cooler temperatures and less sun will both slow algae growth. Does the story end

there? Probably not. The picture is made more complex by how the rainfall occurs and how much soil is washed into the lake.

Lakes can receive over 50% of their entire years phosphorus load from a large Spring rain event. So in regards to lake



Eagle fledglings on China Lake

health and water quality it is not only how much rain is received but how it arrives. Two inches of rain over 2 days has much less impact on water quality than two inches of rain over two hours. Unfortunately, the China Lake Watershed was on the receiving end of several large "gully washers" this Spring, storms that overwhelmed the highway drain-

Mark your calendar!

China Lake Association Annual Meeting

Thursday, August 4, 7:00 p.m.
China Middle School Library

Agenda

1. Lake Management Techniques
2. Water quality in China Lake
3. China Lake restoration report
4. Election of Directors
5. Election of Officers
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn for Refreshments

China Middle School

Lake Day 2005

The China Middle School fifth graders culminated a year long study of water related topics including the watershed of China Lake and it's lake ecology on Wednesday, June 8th. Students spent a half-



day out on China Lake participating in water quality testing activities. The other half of the day was spent at the Kennebec Water District with Mr. Jon Van Bourg and

Fun on Lake Day 2005

From front Page

China Middle School Lake Day

his staff reviewing the water cycle and touring the plant. Our gratitude and appreciation goes out to everyone who helped make this educational day so memorable.

The middle school staff and students wish to thank the China Lake Association for helping to fund their partnership with the Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute. The association donated \$500.00 to help subsidize the use of the Melinda Ann, the MLCI's boat. The fifth graders and the Melinda Ann's crew, Warren Miskell and Rex Turner, used a plankton haul, then viewed the zooplankton they caught using a microscope. They used a benthic dredge to check out the macro invertebrate population, viewed the lake bottom with an underwater camera, and listened to lake sounds using a hydrophone. Similar testing including Secchi Disk readings, dissolved oxygen study, and discussions on buffer zones took place on all the boats.

During the winter months, Dr. MaryAnn McGarry, education director for MLCI, taught the fifth graders about two invasive species, the Eurasian Water milfoil and the Zebra Mussels. Students then used their knowledge to hypothesize what might happen if Eurasian Water milfoil invaded China Lake. Using bathymetric maps of China Lake, they colored the maps showing where this nuisance plant could live and spread if it ever got into China Lake. Please visit the China Town Office for a visual of their findings and pictures

of this year's Lake Day activities.

We wish to thank the Kennebec Water District, Colby College, and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Theriault for providing the rest of the boats that were needed for this year's Lake Day activities. Without them, this important educational experience would not have happened.

Dr. David Landry, president of the China Lake Association, and Mrs. Janet Preston, school board member and association member, played an instrumental role in setting up this year's Lake Day, too. We can not thank them enough!

In closing, it is important to realize that these China Middle School fifth graders will become the next generation of stewards of China Lake and it's watershed. The following people shared their knowledge and expertise with the students so that they will someday take their place in protecting Maine's lakes and waterways. We wish to thank, Reb Manthey, director of the China Region Lakes Alliance. She spent time at the CMS with staff planning the day's activities and coordinating programming. Dr. Whitney King, of Colby College, Barb Welch and Matt Loosigian from the DEP, Warren Miskell and Rex Turner from the MLCI, John Van Bourg, John Wedin, and Brian Duellely from the Kennebec Water District, and Mr. and Mrs. Theriault of Waterville.

Diane Lewis, fifth grade teacher

From front Page

Presidents Report

age ditches and camp roads resulting in substantial amounts of soil being washed into the lake. How will this affect water quality this Summer? We'll find out in August.

The China Lake Association is following several items of interest. First, the Town of China is gathering information on septic systems in the shoreland zone and may work towards having outdated systems replaced. The CLA Board of Directors feels this is a good path to take and we will be providing updates on this. There are several sections of highway where drainage ditching carries much soil into the lake dur-

**"Lakes can receive over
50% of their entire
years phosphorus load
from a large Spring rain**

ing heavy rains. This could negatively impact water quality. We will be working with the Kennebec Water District to seek a remedy for this problem.

A distribution of the Newsletter is planned for shorefront properties this Summer. If you receive an extra copy of the Newsletter share it with a neighbor. Remember the China

Lake Association need volunteers and donations. Become a member, make a donation, urge a neighbor to sign up. See you at the Annual Meeting.

David E. Landry, president

Lake tours: Volunteers Needed

As part of China Community Days the China Lake Association and the Kennebec Water District are teaming up to offer tours of China Lake on Saturday August 6th from 3-6:00 pm. While the project is still in the planning stages it is envisioned that 3 or 4 party boats will be needed for the project. What is planned is a one hour tour, beginning at the Town Landing near the China Baptist Church. The boat tour will proceed up the East Shore of the lake loop for a short distance into the West Basin and then return to the Landing along the West Shore. It is surprising how many China residents have not been on the lake. This would be a great introduction for young and old who have not seen the lake from a boat.

We are working up a short program of interesting facts about the lake to pass along during the ride. One of the things that is being considered is serving desert and coffee on the excursion. The boat ride will probably be free with some minimal charge for desert if we decide to go that route. We would like to have 4 boats so that a tour could leave every 15 minutes running from 3pm until 6pm. The Lake Association will provide the gas. If you have a pontoon boat and would like to participate in this event or help staff the onshore booth please call 968-2856. Thanks.

David Landry

China Lake Restoration Report

Reb Manthey

During the 2004 season, CRLA sponsored educational workshops about invasive plants, vegetated buffers, camp road maintenance and watershed management. We coordinated volunteers who inspected boats for invasive plants. We sampled water quality to determine lake health. We worked to control erosion and protect water quality by providing technical assistance and cost-share money, and performed repair work with the assistance of the Conservation Corps and volunteers.

The 2004 Conservation Corps was made up of 14 young men and women from the towns of China, Vassalboro and Windsor. The Corps worked on controlling erosion on the lakeshore and stream banks using rip-rap stone and vegetation, and improving drainage from roads and developed land. These projects secure the soil so that it does not wash into streams or lakes, where phosphorus attached to the soil acts as a fertilizer creating algae blooms. On Corps sites, the labor is provided for free, and the land-

owner pays only for materials and permits.

Around China Lake, the Corps placed rip-rap at 6 sites, planted vegetated buffers at 2 sites, built check dams at 2 sites, set up temporary erosion control barriers at 2 sites, and cleaned debris out of the lake at 1 site. In addition, volunteers planted buffers at 3 sites and cleaned up trash and debris from 1 site.



China Lake Conservation Corps, 2004

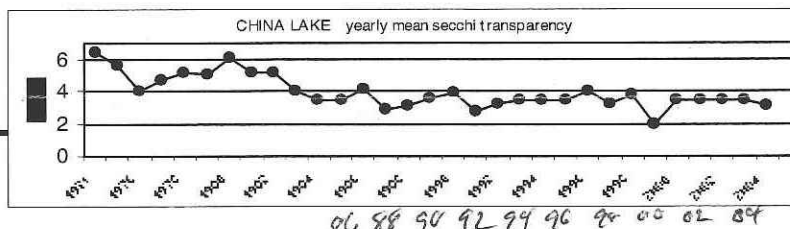
The 2005 work season has just started. China Lake Day with the Fifth Graders was a great success. Water sampling is being done by the Kennebec Water District. The Conservation Corps began work on June 27. Technical assistance is available for erosion control and drainage problems, by calling 445-5021. Our "regular" office hours are 8-4 Monday through Friday, but we are often working outside so you will probably need to leave a message.

China Lake Water Quality Report 2004-2005

Jon Van Bourg 6-28-05

China Lake Water Quality deteriorated noticeably in 2004. The Lake had a very late fall algae bloom in 2003 that lasted through much of the winter. Water quality cleared up some in the spring and then the lake bloomed with anabaena algae again in late July. The bloom lasted through July and August and then there was yet another bloom in October and November. We experienced increases in phosphorous and Chlorophyll A and a decrease in Secchi disk transparency. The algae bloom disappeared in late November and the lake remained relatively clean through the winter. With the heavy spring rains this year the water quality became slightly cloudy with sediment.

The spring rainfall could be a blessing or a curse for China Lake. The noticeable increase in sediment will most likely cause more algae blooms in the future but the flushing of the lake may have helped to remove some of the phosphorus too. Also, the pH of the Lake was lowered by all of the rain and sometimes that can inhibit the growth of algae. Currently the Secchi disk reading in the West basin is 4.5 meters and East basins are 3.6 meters. China Lake pH is normally around 7.5 but now it is only 6.9

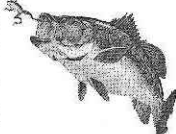


Fishing in China Lake

By Augie Velten

Family fun, tournament excitement or peaceful solitude, take your pick. Regardless of choice it is always enjoyable! China Lake is a good fishery for brown trout and is excellent for both small mouth and largemouth bass. According to my four year old grandson a largemouth bass of any decent size is called a Billy bass. China has quite a large number of Billy bass. For the young kids it also has a great population of white and yellow perch which are eager to bite on a worm.

As for myself and my wife Tessa, heading out to fish in the early evening with dinner on board is the best. The lake is normally calm and the bass are active. Bass are more active evenings and early morning when the sun is low in the sky. I tend to



head over to the watershed side. I'm not sure the fishing is better but we are sure to see beaver and many times the bald eagles that are now nesting on the lake.

Excitement! Let's just say that at this time of day with the lake calm and the bass active, top water baits (lures) are great. For us, a large bass exploding out of the water and grabbing a pop-r is plenty exciting. We practice catch and release so after the battle Billy bass is released back to China Lake.

Fishing the lake is an important part of our life and we want to be sure it remains so. That is why we became members of the China Lake association. By being members we feel that we have a hand in keeping the lake healthy and enjoyable for all of us. Happy fishing!



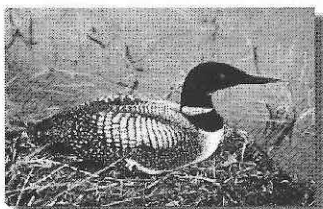
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RESIDENT

Head of Lake cleanup

Once again this year China resident Wayne Morey is heading up the ongoing cleanup of the parking and dock area around the town Landing. As part of a community project by Central Maine Bass Masters, Wayne has trimmed brush, picked up trash, and emptied trash cans along the causeway for the past 5 years. Last year Wayne estimates he emptied 50 barrels of trash over the Summer in addition to roadside cleanup around the lake. With the heavy use that the causeway area of China Lake receives from both China residents and non residents one can only image the trash that would collect if it were not for the dedication of Wayne and the Central Maine Bass Masters



China Resident Bob O'Connor is looking for volunteers to help with the annual Loon count on July 16, starting at 7 am. If you are interested please, call 445-4140

Shorefront Property Owners Wanted

Has your waterfront property appreciated in value in recent years? Do you want to join with a group of people interested in working on lake related issues, working to improve water quality, working to keep you informed about lake matters, and working to protect your investment? The busy members of the China Lake Association help to make all of these things happen and we need your help. The money for lake related projects comes from you the members. We need to raise money for lake related work and ask owners of shorefront property to consider a donation of \$100 to the China Lake Association. This tax deductible donation will help us continue the work around the China Lake Watershed.

Membership renewals are due! Please use the form below if you have not yet sent yours in.

Membership Form

China Lake Association

☐ Please renew my annual membership
☐ I am a new member

**China Lake
Association**

Annual Meeting
Thursday, August 4

China Middle School Library

Name(s) _____

☐ Annual Family Membership: \$25

Address: _____

☐ Friend: \$35

☐ Patron: \$50

City, State, Zip: _____

☐ Sponsor: \$100

☐ Benefactor: \$500

Phone: _____ Date: _____

☐ Other: _____

Please make check payable to **China Lake Association** and Mail to PO Box 6215, China Village, ME. 04926