

WORKING TO PROTECT
THE QUALITY OF OUR LAKES



ISLAND FALLS
LAKES ASSOCIATION



SUMMER 2023 NEWSLETTER



IT'S DERBY TIME!

Please cast a line in this year's *Jeff Wingate Youth Fishing Derby* on Saturday July 8.

In honor of former Trustee Jeff Wingate this years derby is all about taking kids (16 years or younger) out fishing. We need adult fishermen to get involved by taking a youthful son, daughter, niece, nephew, friend or neighbor out for a few hours of fishing. Jeff believed that introducing young people to fishing elevated their sense of self worth and their appreciation for the natural world around us. Hopefully that is a goal that many of us can identify with.

Derby rules apply and prizes for the biggest fish in each category, trout, salmon, bass and pickerel will be awarded.

Register online at www.islandfallslakesassociation.com, at Jerry's supermarket July 7 or on Derby Day, July 8 at the snowmobile club on Route 2. Entry fee is \$10 per youth. See you there!

SAVE THE DATE! KAYAK, CANOE + S.U.P. RACE!

On Sunday, July 30th, the Island Falls Lakes Association will hold its 19th Annual Around-the-Pond Paddling Race at Birch Point Lodge and Campground on Pleasant Lake. This is a family friendly, fun event for all ages to participate in. First, Second, and Third Place finishers will receive a ribbon and certificate. First Place winners will also receive a miniature paddle. All participants receive an IFLA Race t-shirt. Registration fee is still only \$15. Registration at noon. Race start at 1 PM.

This event raises money for the Southern Aroostook Scholarship Fund through entry fees and donations. Volunteers are invited to help on race day. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tom Burgos at tburgos5060@gmail.com



SUMMER 2023 EVENTS

JULY 8

JEFF WINGATE YOUTH FISHING DERBY

Derby: Sunrise – 4PM

Weigh In: 3PM - 4PM

Awards: 4PM

Tickets: \$10 per youth

JULY 29

IFLA ANNUAL MEETING / LOBSTER + STEAK DINNER SNOWMOBILE CLUB

5PM – 8PM

Tickets: \$25 per person

Reservations can be made via email to info@islandfallslakesassociation.com or by calling Birch Point 207 463-2515 no later than JULY 25th. Dinner options are steamed lobster, grilled steak or chicken. Steamed clams and corn on the cob is included with each meal and a take-out option will be available.

JULY 30

KAYAK, CANOE + S.U.P. RACE BIRCH POINT CAMPGROUND

Registration: 12pm

Fee: \$15 (includes a T-Shirt)

Race: 1pm

COMMUNITY CORNER

Here are other fun things happening around town this summer

SUMMERFEST

JULY 28

BBQ and Cruise-in with music by Ted and the Boys & Miss Emily at the municipal building from 5-8PM

AUGUST 5

Main Street parade starts at 1PM
Fireworks at VaJoWa starts at 9PM

VAJOWA

JULY 15: Cornhole Tournament
AUGUST 13: County Open Scramble
AUGUST 19: Mallett Brothers Concert

HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Learn about Island Falls' storied past with guided cemetery tours that highlight it's most memorable residents in the Historical Society's new series *A Step Back in Time: Our Stories, Past, Present and Future*.

JULY 28 at 1 pm

AUGUST 4 at 2 pm

SEPTEMBER 23 at 2 pm

COURTESY BOAT INSPECTIONS

This summer the IFLA will be sponsoring **Courtesy Boat Inspections** at the launch areas of both lakes. Available Fridays thru Sundays, these voluntary inspections will focus solely on the detection of invasive aquatic plant species. Many infestations occur in shallow waters near boat access points, allowing invasive plants to move from lake to lake.

This courtesy boat inspection is designed to educate boaters on how to inspect their boats, trailers

and equipment for invasive plants and organisms before and after every launch.

Our inspectors and volunteers hope you take advantage of this program and do your part in stopping invasive species from entering our beautiful lakes.

We will also be distributing brochures with helpful tips and information to assist you in self-inspections.

Contact us at info@islandfallslakesassociation.com to learn more or volunteer.



**HELP STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!**

CORING PROJECT TAKES OFF

Ph.D candidate Avery Lamb looks at the sediment core taken from the bottom of Pleasant Lake this past February. The core sample was taken in 52 feet of water and represents up to 200 years of sedimentation. At right Avery and her assistant dissect the core in their mobile lab for later analysis at the University. Great care was taken to ensure that all test equipment and handling of samples was done following lab protocols for sterility to avoid contamination. The University scientists were accompanied by Selectman Tony Binotto and IFLA member Bob Guerette. A snowsled was loaned to the group by Jeff Brooks to help the research party reach their destination on the ice.

The study, designed to take up to 3 years to complete, involves sampling from 12 Maine lakes for the purpose of better understanding the relationship between algae growth and the principal drivers of algae growth: nutrients and temperature (or climate). The analysis will utilize recorded weather data to measure the impact of longer summers/shorter winters on algae growth. The available information on ice-in and ice-out dates kept by the Edwards at Birch Point will be used as part of this analysis.

According to the research study parameters survey results will also be used “to assess whether any changes in algal response during the 20th century occurred during periods of land use intensification.”

The kind of data generated by this research will help the Lakes Association carry out it’s mission of protecting “the ecosystems of Mattawamkeag and Pleasant Lakes as well as their watershed by promoting an appreciation of natural resources and responsible preservation, conservation, stewardship, development and public policy.”



IFLA ON-LINE!

Get news about our upcoming events, pay your membership dues, learn about our initiatives and get involved. Have suggestions? Send them our way via info@islandfallslakesassociation.com

Visit our [site](#) for more information!

2023 MEMBERSHIP DUES REMINDER!

If you have not yet paid your **\$20 Membership Dues** this year, you can do so via mail, the IFLA website, or at the annual meeting on July 30, 2023. Dues paid in 2023 will cover the IFLA Fiscal year of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024

THE IFLA DIVERTER & GRANT PROGRAM

HELP PREVENT EROSION

The IFLA will provide free driveway diverters to any property owner on both Mattawamkeag Lake and Pleasant Pond. We will also reimburse up to \$500 when installed by a licensed contractor. These diverters steer water off your driveway and into the woods where the water can easily be absorbed. This diversion of runoff prevents erosion of your driveway and, as importantly, it prevents dirt and gravel from draining into the lake.

Why is this so critical? Dirt, leaves, and gravel contain phosphorus. Phosphorus creates algae blooms which are a huge threat to the fish, natural beauty, and clean waters of our lakes.

If you would like to protect your driveway from erosion and help preserve the quality of our lakes, email us today through the website or at: mpankratz@4Goals.net or guerettes2@gmail.com
Thanks for doing your part to keep our lakes beautiful!



CALLING ALL CLEAN WATER ENTHUSIASTS!

LakeSmart is a voluntary program overseen by Maine Lakes, (formerly The Maine Lakes Society and COLA, the Congress of Lakes Associations) of which IFLA is a member.

Properties on our lake shores are evaluated on five categories:

1. Structures and appropriate septic systems that are pumped out every 2-5 years (or a schedule appropriate to your situation),
2. Roads, driveway, and parking areas,
3. Lawn, recreation areas and footpaths,
4. Shorefront and/or beach area, including docks and water access, and
5. Undeveloped land areas.

The goal is to prevent run-off on our properties that can carry pollutants into the lake water. The Lake Smart evaluating team will make recommendations to improve areas that don't meet the requirements for an award, but there is no penalty if the property does not qualify for an award nor will they insist that improvements be completed. Property owners that score high enough in all categories receive the award and signs to post on their shorefront and driveway. The purpose of the program is to educate property owners about protecting the water quality of our valuable lakes.

Since joining LakeSmart in 2014, we have visited properties on both lakes. Those visits brought us to a lakes total of nine LakeSmart awards on Pleasant and four awards on Mattawamkeag. The goal for the program is at least 15% participation: IFLA will need at least 38 properties. Therefore, we are looking for volunteers willing to have us visit their shorefront property and help IFLA become a "Gold Award" association. We look forward to seeing volunteers this summer, or, if you are interested in being trained to become an evaluator please contact us. A training is being planned for Aroostook County this summer. You can also visit the Maine Lakes website www.lakes.me for more information.