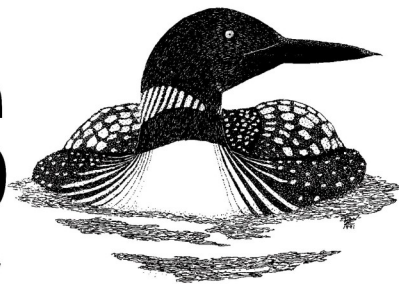


SPRING 2017

Paw Prints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association



2017 ANNUAL MEETING

NEW DATE AND LOCATION!

Saturday, May 20th

9:00 am

**Nottingham Town Offices
Multipurpose Room**



WE WANT YOU!

***To Join the PLIA
To Increase Your
Membership
To Volunteer Your
Time***

President's Message

by John Decker

This past year the primary focus of the PLIA was to step up the fight against the milfoil growing in South Channel. We were optimistic that the State divers were able to eradicate it in the fall of 2015, but there were still roots that survived the winter and grew during the summer along with fragments creating new areas of growth. As we approached the 4th of July weekend, the Board made the hard decision to split the Boat Parade in two to avoid going through the channel. Signs were posted at each end of the channel and the State Park staff spoke with each camper as they registered asking that boaters avoid going through the channel. Marine Patrol also put up No Wake buoys and indicated that they would step up patrols in that area. My thanks to all who avoided South Channel through our time of crisis. The reduced traffic helped prevent the fragile plant from breaking off and rooting in other spots.

On the prevention side, a sizeable donation from a member allowed us to add a part-time Lake Host at the State Park along with focusing volunteer hours at the Park. The Fundy boat launch is staffed with paid Lake Hosts from Memorial Day through Labor Day, and this year a paid Host will also be at the State Park Friday, Saturday, and Sunday during that same

time. Volunteers will need to staff additional hours before Memorial Day and after Labor Day. Please consider becoming a volunteer in this very important program.

(continued on p.3)



Above: Outgoing PLIA President Tom Duffy with Incoming President John Decker



Right: Breakout Session at last year's Annual Meeting. This year there will be groups on Winged Wildlife at Pawtuckaway; the Lake Host Program; Tree Cutting, Docks, and FAQ's; and the History of Pawtuckaway Lake and Origins of the State Park. Please come and join us!

SAVE THESE DATES!

May 18	DES/PLIA Meeting
May 20	Annual Meeting
July 4	Boat Parade
July 15	Loon Census
September 16	Nottingham Day

Weed Watchers' & Milfoil Report

Last year Weed Watchers had their most active year. On May 14, 2016, Therese Thompson and Dee Decker conducted a training for both Weed Watchers and Lake Hosts at Nottingham's Municipal Building.



In addition to patrolling the entire lake along its shoreline, Weed Watcher volunteers personally informed residents of Shore Road along the South Channel about the milfoil infestation to enlist their cooperation and help.

Last year for the first time, PLIA volunteer Neil Santos formed a snorkel patrol. They regularly scan the known areas of milfoil infestation and beyond, mark newly discovered growths or regrowths, and alert the team of trained divers from NHDES in advance of their planned visits. This strategy takes advantage of local talent and creates an efficient plan of patrolling, diving, and removing. It also warns boaters to avoid these areas.

According to Amy Smagula, chief limnologist at NHDES who has helped us create a milfoil management plan, "The Pawtuckaway Lake milfoil growth is evolving, and fortunately there have been some good Weed Watching efforts and good responsiveness by divers to get in the lake and remove what is found, shortly after it is found. At this stage, the recommendations that I have are not much different from what is being done." We remain optimistic but alert.

Weed Watchers also investigated invasive weed growths near the Town beach, removed Purple Loosestrife from Horse Island, and pulled Phragmites in the usual areas.

Lake Host Boat Inspections

2016 was a very busy year for the Lake Host Program. Not only did we expand our paid Hosts to the State Park but our volunteers inspected many boats as well. Our paid Hosts worked a total of 874 hours and our volunteers 334. We did 5535 courtesy inspections at the Fundy launch and 348 at the State Park. We had one save, variable milfoil.

In 2017 we plan to again increase the number of hours we have a paid Host at the Park, this year inspecting boats right after the toll booth. Park Manager Dave Richardson is very open to helping and again plans to include us as part of his staff's orientation training.

Paid Lake Hosts are funded through a grant from the NH Lakes Association, a town Warrant Article, and dollars collected from Membership to the PLIA. The 2017 grant has been submitted and the Town voted once again to fund the Lake Host Program as well as to set aside funds for future use fighting invasive species.

Please let us know if you would like training as a Lake Host, even for your own association or personal boat launch.



Pawtuckaway Loons

Last summer a "successor" female loon appeared in the south end of the lake. She and her mate spent the summer getting acquainted but they did not nest—maybe in 2017! The north end pair successfully hatched two chicks as usual, both of which migrated in the fall after being lovingly monitored all season. During the annual loon census organized throughout NH by the Loon Preservation Committee in mid-July, several Pawtuckaway volunteers counted a record number of 9 adults and 2 chicks.

Prevention is our best defense against exotic species! You can be part of these crucial efforts!

Just contact either Dee Decker, Lake Host Coordinator, at deedecker.plia@gmail.com, 498-3830; or Steve Soreff, Weed Watcher Co-Chair, at SoreffS15@aol.com, 568-3202

Are you SCUBA Open Water certified? Get trained as a Weed Control Diver and volunteer to dive on milfoil sites in the lake. Contact Tom Duffy at tom.duffy@verani.com, 303-3039.

Volunteer Recognition

The PLIA is lucky to have so many volunteers who organize, staff, and oversee our programs and activities. Last year it was decided that the contributions of these unsung heroes should be properly recognized. To that end, they were invited to attend a picnic to celebrate their tireless efforts, time, expertise, and energies. Volunteers are truly the backbone of this organization. Without them, fulfilling the PLIA's mission of public service would be impossible. To our wonderful volunteers: *Thank you all — and hope to see you around the lake!*



New, Improved Website

In case you missed our announcements, the PLIA launched its long-awaited website makeover in 2016. Thanks to the expertise of volunteer webmaster Rob Munger, our largely outdated web presence has been completely overhauled. The committee charged with this project spent over a year redesigning, rewriting, reorganizing, and expanding content on the new website. See the transformation for yourself at:

<http://pawtuckawaylake.com>. We hope you will agree that the result is more user-friendly, informative, and pleasing to the eye, especially the PHOTOS section. Many newcomers find the HISTORICAL INTERVIEWS with "old-timers" fascinating. For those who haven't visited our website recently, you will find a new page devoted to lake levels with links to sites where you can monitor how high or low the lake is on any given day. We hope it will prove informative and helpful to Pawtuckaway Lake lovers.

(President cont. from p.1) If you are unable to volunteer your time, please consider increasing your annual membership contribution. Remember, your donation is now 100% tax deductible. This year we have moved the Annual Meeting to May to try something new. After the business meeting we will again have breakout discussions. In new business, we have proposed a small change to the bylaws, to amend the membership year from June 1 - May 31 to January 1 - December 31. The fiscal year membership has been confusing to some and a calendar year membership will make member contributions more easily associated with a specific tax year.

Hope to see you at Annual Meeting on May 20.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2017

MAIL CHECK & FORM TO: PLIA Membership PO Box 30, Raymond NH 03077

Name _____

Lake Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Lake Phone _____

Cell #1 _____ Cell #2 _____

Email Address _____

Join using **PAYPAL!** Use this email address members.plia@gmail.com and the send money to friend/family option in PayPal.

Your Membership Supports:

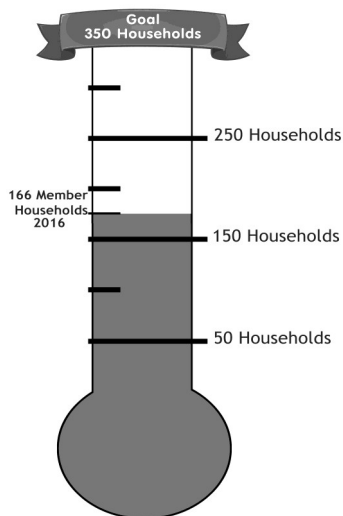
- PLIA's Dues to NH Lakes Association
- PawPrints Newsletter
- PLIA Annual Meeting
- Lake Stewardship & Resource Booklet
- Road & Island Clean Up
- Water Quality Testing
- Lake Host & Weed Watchers Exotic Species Prevention
- State/National/Foundation Matching Grants
- Studies & Projects to Improve the Health of the Lake

- ☐ \$25 Basic Membership
- ☐ \$50 Conservation Membership
- ☐ \$100 Guardian Membership
- ☐ Other amount please specify \$_____

☐ I would like to volunteer, please contact me

Thank you for your support!

Help us Raise the PLIA's Temperature from Lukewarm to **HOT!** Become a Member, Renew Your Membership, or Invite Your Friends and Neighbors to Join!



This Graphic Depicts the **Actual Number** of PLIA Memberships in Relation to the **Total Number** of Properties around Pawtuckaway Lake. We are Now at 45%. Our Goal is 100%!

Don't forget—the PLIA is a 501(c)(3) so your membership donation is now *tax deductible!*

Membership Drive

This year we are aiming high in our campaign to increase PLIA membership numbers. Our appeal is to all households on or around Pawtuckaway Lake. A survey of properties around the lake reveals that there are 373, but of these, **only** 166 have joined as members of the PLIA. *Our programs:*

- Fighting milfoil infestations
- Monitoring lake water quality
- Preventing contamination from invasive species or other pollutants
- Educating people about safe recreation
- Encouraging lake stewardship

These are all ways in which the PLIA fulfills its mission, and they all cost money! We need the support of everyone who loves the lake, lives on the lake, or visits the lake to help us preserve the natural beauty of Pawtuckaway and its wildlife.

PLIA

P.O. Box 30

Raymond, NH 03077

COMING SOON a Facebook Group just for members! If you are on Facebook and want to be part of this closed group make sure you get your membership form in. More information to follow in the PLIA email blast.