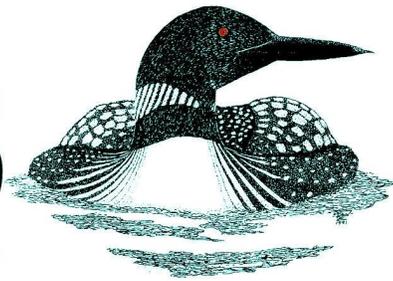


SPRING 2020

Paw Prints



A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association

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President's Message

by Tom Duffy

The PLIA has been very productive during the Covid-19 shutdown, conducting Board of Directors meetings via Zoom to plan our own 'reopening' for the season. Our concern is the health and safety of our many dedicated volunteers who are eager to resume their Lake Hosting, Water Testing, Weed Watching, Milfoil Seaching/Removal, Road Cleanup, and other activities. Luckily, science says it is safer to be outdoors in the fresh air! We await the Governor's phased reopening plan for the State Park (partially open now).

I'm happy to share some GOOD NEWS with you! Earlier this year, the PLIA met with the Lamprey River Advisory Committee (LRAC) concerning the threat of Variable Milfoil. Currently, 72 lakes and 12 rivers in NH report infestation. **LRAC has awarded us a \$5700 grant!** [Read about it on p. 3.](#)

We are setting up a Facebook Page as a quick reference site for events. *Look for an announcement!* **PawtuckawayLake.com remains our comprehensive source for important information, contacts, and history.**

This year, for safety's sake, we hope many of you will tune into our **ZOOM ANNUAL MEETING.** [See below for details.](#)

If I don't see you on the water before the Annual Meeting, I hope to see you on the screen! Stay Healthy and Safe. Enjoy the fresh air and water! We are blessed to be in our *Little Piece of Paradise.*

PLIA ANNUAL MEETING

ZOOM WITH THE PLIA!

We care about the health and safety of our members as much as we care about the health and safety of Pawtuckaway Lake. So this year, our Annual Meeting will be held via Zoom. Everyone will receive an invitation to join the virtual gathering on their computers, tablets, or smart phones. It will seem more like a live TV show with video clips and presentations about our work. We have a lot to share about what we are doing and what we have planned for the coming year,

so **PLEASE JOIN US!**

Date: July 25, 2020

Time: 9:30 AM

Where: The comfort of your home



If circumstances should change, we will consider making other arrangements as well, so *stay tuned!*



PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER 1

Focus on Invasive Species

One of the most important parts of the PLIA's mission is monitoring and keeping Pawtuckaway Lake healthy and clean. Preserving a balanced biodiversity in and around the lake is the primary focus of the PLIA and the presence of invasive species threatens that goal. This PawPrints issue is therefore dedicated to examining the threat of milfoil and other invasive species and exploring what we are doing to meet it.

Weed Watchers

It is noteworthy that the two significant new patches of milfoil found last summer were both located by [Weed Watchers](#), which demonstrates their importance in maintaining the health of the lake!

Trained by biologists, this group has donated countless hours locating and eradicating invasive weeds in Pawtuckaway, although *only specially trained and certified divers may remove milfoil*.



Besides [milfoil](#), Weed Watchers know how to spot invasive weeds like phragmites and purple loosestrife in and around the lake. In 2019, these volunteers clocked over 750 hours, including time spent with the Milfoil Team supporting snorkelers and divers.

We are continually on the lookout for new volunteers—especially SCUBA divers—to join us so we can increase our search capability. If you are interested in weed watching, contact Co-Captain Steve Soreff (soreffs15@aol.com, 603 895-6120). **Note: remote training is available!** Anyone interested in snorkeling, SCUBA diving, or being a milfoil support kayaker should contact Team Leader Neil Santos (neilsantos@comcast.net, 603 548-1701).

Milfoil Management

The [Milfoil Teams](#) had a busy summer in 2019, from early June through mid-September. In early July, the PLIA hosted a class for SCUBA divers who wanted to become certified Weed Control Drivers, which would allow them to remove [milfoil](#) and other aquatic invasives. Adding to the diver who was certified in 2018, three new certified divers in 2019 gave us an excellent capability to remove milfoil as we found it, thus reducing the possibility of further spread. PLIA members also learned about the support role in assisting divers.

In 2019, there were eight milfoil divers and snorkelers. They had a great deal of help from the kayak support team of eight



specially trained volunteers. The kayak team keeps the dive team safe and makes sure they have all the necessary equipment to locate, mark, and remove milfoil.



In 2019 we found [Milfoil](#) in the same locations as previous years—the South Channel and Gove's Cove. In addition, we found a large infestation of milfoil in the small cove just northeast of the South Channel. The team located and removed 129 gallons of milfoil, a significant increase from previous years where amounts ranged from 11 to 35 gallons. While this indicates that milfoil continues to grow and spread, the jump is also due to the team's increase in size and efficiency in searching. So, we remain optimistic.

LRAC Grant

Finding the milfoil is our greatest challenge. Surveying the whole lake by diving is not feasible so we keep looking for ways to make searching more efficient. Side scan sonar may provide us with such a capability. Earlier this year at the recommendation of [Lamprey River Advisory Committee \(LRAC\)](#) member Therese Thompson, the PLIA applied for a grant to obtain a high tech structure scan sonar unit. We hope this equipment will enable us to efficiently and repeatedly scan large areas of the lake to locate new and existing areas of milfoil. On April 21, we are delighted to report, LRAC unanimously approved our grant proposal. We expect to have the unit in hand by the end of May and will be using it repeatedly throughout the summer.



Lake Hosts

The PLIA participates in the [Lake Host Program](#) administered by [NH LAKES](#). It is our **first line of defense** against the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species into Pawtuckaway Lake. Volunteer and paid Lake Hosts at the Fundy Boat Ramp and State Park offer courtesy boat inspections seeking to identify and remove foreign “hitchhikers” before they enter the lake.

The Lake Host Program is grant-based and employs 6 - 8 Lake Hosts 7 AM - 7 PM from late May through mid-October. It also depends on volunteers whose time counts toward our grant match. The PLIA is required to match the grant 100%, to qualify for the following year’s grant, with volunteer time and funds from both the PLIA and the Town of Nottingham. Our grant match for 2019 was 541%, and this year’s award is \$5050!

We had four saves in 2019, all at the Fundy boat ramp: 1 variable milfoil, 1 Eurasian milfoil, and 2 water chestnuts. The water chestnut saves are the scariest, because they have never been found in the Fundy area before. One was on the ground under a trailer and the other was IN a boater’s kayak! They had found it at another ramp and thought it was interesting, so picked it up. Thank goodness our sharp-eyed Lake Host knew what it was and educated the boater on the dangers of picking things like this up.

Want to volunteer? Please contact Lake Host Manager and Point Person Dee Decker (deedecker.plia@gmail.com, 603 498-3830) for more information.



We Put the FUN in FUNdraisers!

Late last summer PLIA volunteers conducted a Paddle Poker Tournament Fundraiser. The turnout was great, the food was delicious, and the excitement built to a rousing finale! The two winners split the pot with the PLIA and funds were dedicated to our Lake Host and Milfoil Management Programs.



Our next fundraising opportunity was in March for Town Elections. Volunteers put together an amazing array of meals and snacks to nourish both poll workers and members of the voting public, who expressed their appreciation through donations. Another resounding success! What next? Your ideas are welcome!



Membership

Fundraisers are a good way to come together as a community and generate funds! But in truth, the PLIA relies primarily on revenue from [membership](#) dues to support our programs for education, conservation, and safe recreational enjoyment of Pawtuckaway Lake. Please join, renew a membership, or [donate](#) to the PLIA to help us in the important work we do — to eradicate milfoil in the lake, for example!

PLIA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

MAIL CHECK & FORM TO: PLIA Membership, PO Box 41, Nottingham, NH 03290

Name(s) _____

Your Membership Supports:



Lake Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone #1 _____ Phone #2 _____

Email Address _____

Email Address _____

Join using PayPal! Email members.plia@gmail.com and send payment to friend/family option in PayPal

- PLIA's Dues to NH LAKES
- Pawprints Newsletter
- Annual Meeting
- Weed Watchers & Lake Host Invasive Species Prevention
- Milfoil Management Program
- Water Quality Testing
- Road & Island Cleanup
- 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!

PLIA
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