

FEBRUARY 2018

PawPrints



A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association

THANK YOU EDITION

YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP HELPS PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE

~RENEW TODAY!~

President's Message

by John Decker



Happy New Year 2018! I hope this early edition of PawPrints finds you warm and well.

The Board decided to issue an early PawPrints newsletter to match the new membership year voted on at the 2017 Annual Meeting. This edition focuses on the contributions of members and our appreciation for all they do to preserve the "little piece of paradise" that is Pawtuckaway Lake.

Every one of you can be a hero to the PLIA starting with your renewal or new annual membership. Every dollar you contribute

is used 100% to support the programs that help protect Pawtuckaway Lake and its watershed including Lake Hosting, Water Testing, Milfoil Control, Weed Watching, Road Cleanup, Stream and Storm Runoff Mitigation, and Membership Communication.

The success of the PLIA begins with you. Please start the new membership year by sending in your form (p.5) and tax deductible donation. Please also

consider volunteering to help with these programs. You can leave me a voice or text message at 498-2032 or contact me by email at JohnD.PLIA@gmail.com. Thanks for your continued support!

SAVE THESE DATES!		
March 17		Town Meeting
April 28	Weed Watch/Lake Host Training	
May 12		Nottingham Earth Day
May 19		Annual PLIA Meeting
July 4		Boat Parade

2018 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, May 19th

9:00 am

Nottingham Town Offices

Multipurpose Room

Town Meeting Alert!

Our Lake Host program is funded in part through a grant from NH LAKES. This grant **must be matched** with volunteer hours and funds from other sources, including PLIA membership fees and the Town of Nottingham. This year there is a Warrant Article to authorize funds for our Lake Host program. **Please attend Town Meeting to support the Warrant Article!**

Just How are PLIA Membership Funds Spent?*

*Throughout this issue, we have highlighted in **bold** those items that indicate expenses of our programs

- **Paid Lake Hosts**—These folks are **trained** and **paid** for their time **doing courtesy boat and trailer inspections** at the public boat ramps in the Fundy and at the State Park. They detect and report invasive aquatic species "hitchhiking" on watercraft in order to avoid contaminating Pawtuckaway Lake. They also **educate boaters** about the Clean, Drain, and Dry campaign and about new State laws to keep boats free from pests and avoid infestations.



Recently, the New Hampshire Lakes Association recognized our own Pawtuckaway Lake Hosts for their excellent work. In an article of its October 2017 newsletter "Shorelines", the organization described an important discovery of invasive milfoil that was made in the course of boat and trailer inspections at the Fundy boat launch:

"Last week we found a large, mature piece of milfoil on a boat trailer coming from Massachusetts. If we had not been staffing the ramp on weekdays after Labor Day, that milfoil would have been in the lake."

~Dee-Ann Decker, Lake Host Coordinator

"The PLIA has been working very hard...to help control the...milfoil in Pawtuckaway Lake—thank goodness a Lake Host was at the NH Fish and Game Fundy Access site on October 1 to prevent this piece of milfoil from hitchhiking into the lake. Had a Lake Host not been at the ramp at the time, it's possible that all the time and money the PLIA and its partners have spent over the past few years trying to control the milfoil growth in the lake would have been in vain!"

As NH LAKES was reporting this find, a PLIA Lake Host made a **second** major save—milfoil was discovered on its way into the Fundy and removed. Many other lakes staff Lake Hosts only from Memorial Day to Labor Day, but we **have them in place** from May through October. A shout out to Laurie O'Brien and Eric Sabeen, true Lake Host heroes! Their vigilance kept milfoil out of the Fundy. **Membership fees are central to funding the Lake Host Program!**

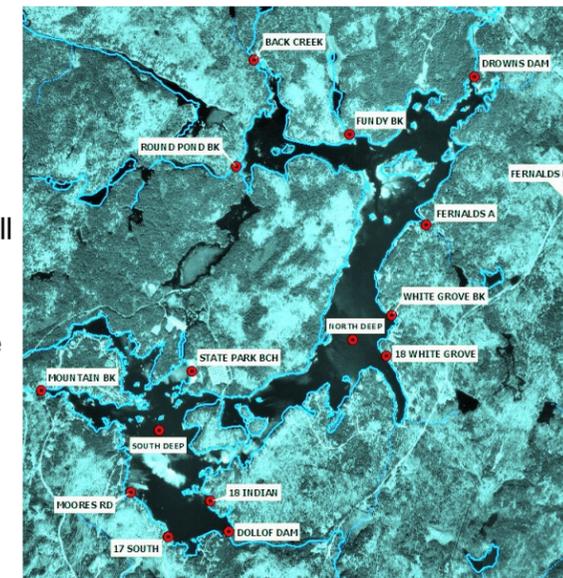
- **Water Quality Testing**---Volunteers sample water throughout the season and send it to a State lab for evaluation to measure phosphorus levels, clarity, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, and other biological

Five times a year, the members of the Water Testing Committee take samples from two areas of the lake as well as various tributaries around the lake. This program is conducted under the supervision of the NH Department of Environmental Services (DES), through its Volunteer Lake Assessment Program. Our studies have identified the



need to draw more water out through the north dam of the lake in the fall so as to maximize phosphorus flushing and protect the ecosystem, as well as to enhance recreational opportunities and property values.

Your membership fees pay for this crucial testing!



WATER COLLECTION SITES

- **Publications**—Pamphlets, flyers, newsletters, and welcome booklets are **printed and mailed** out to residents and members. This is an important way for the PLIA to keep its members informed of events and developments pertaining to the lake, its health, and recreational activities of interest to all. **Membership fees pay for this!**

- **Website and Social Media**—The PLIA **maintains a website** and **email news service** to inform the public as well as its members about



matters pertaining to the organization, its membership, or the lake and its wildlife in general:

www.pawtuckawaylake.com.

- **Membership in NH LAKES**—Our very important Lake Host Program is administered by the New Hampshire Lakes Association. Our **membership** in this organization permits us to recruit, coordinate, manage, **hire, and train** Lake Hosts to perform courtesy watercraft inspections.

- **Volunteer Recognition**—Our volunteers are the backbone of this organization, and celebrating their efforts is a worthwhile way to encourage the work they do. Every year a **cookout is hosted** to recognize and thank them for their contributions. We hope that some of you may join this lively and congenial group to see how much fun it is to be a PLIA volunteer!



Short on funds? You can donate your time and talent! Just contact either Dee Decker, Lake Host Coordinator, at 498-3830 or by email at deedecker.plia@gmail.com; or Steve Soreff, Weed Watcher Co-Chair, at 568-3202 or by email at SoreffS15@aol.com. **Volunteers rock!**
Are you SCUBA Open Water certified? Get trained as a Weed Control Diver to volunteer to remove milfoil in the lake. Contact Tom Duffy at 303-3039, or by email at tom.duffy@verani.com.

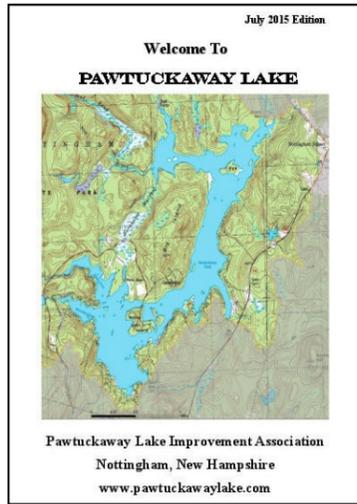
A Thank You to All Who Have Volunteered for Pawtuckaway Lake

"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless."

Your volunteering has protected, enhanced, enriched, and even improved our "little piece of paradise"—Pawtuckaway Lake. **Your** countless hours count! Pawtuckaway Lake, its surrounding area, and its wildlife are healthier and more remarkable because of all **your** volunteer work in these activities:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------|
| ~Training as Weed Watchers and Lake Hosts | ~Lake Hosting |
| ~Snorkeling /diving to locate and mark milfoil | ~Coordinating our programs |
| ~Participating in road clean-up | ~Weed Watching |
| ~Serving on the Board and Committees | ~Water quality testing |

THANK YOU! Signed, *The Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association*



- **Signs and Markers**—When milfoil was discovered growing in Pawtuckaway Lake, a campaign was initiated to warn boaters about sensitive areas of infestation, in order to minimize the spread of the weed. **Signs and markers** must be **created and posted** as important tools in this effort. **Your support finances these floating alerts!**
- **Milfoil Patrol Equipment and Training**—The monitoring and removal of milfoil from Pawtuckaway promises to be a long-range program that will entail the **training** of certified divers and **equipment** to assist snorkelers searching for and marking infestations, including in new, uncharted areas of the lake.



VARIABLE MILFOIL

Thanks to the sharp eyes of our PLIA Weed Watchers, variable milfoil was first detected growing near the State Park boat launch late in the summer of 2015 **before it had become too widespread to manage**. By 2016, a team of snorkelers had been organized by PLIA member Neil Santos to regularly patrol the area where it had been found, and to continuously monitor its growth. Divers from NH DES have responded by pulling the weed in areas marked by the snorkelers.

When lake residents were alerted to the dangers of boating activity in this area of the South Channel, they cooperated to avoid churning up the sensitive area and spreading the plants. Home owners along the South Channel kept a lookout for new growths as well. Thank you all!



In 2017, the efforts of Neil's team were recognized by the Cox Conserves Award which brought with it a \$5,000 grant. The PLIA plans to use these funds for the purchase of equipment to assist the snorkelers and pay for SCUBA divers to become certified Weed Control Divers.

Amy Smagula, Exotic Species Program Coordinator at NH DES, has been working closely with PLIA Weed Watcher volunteers. In her opinion, *"The milfoil density is low, and it appears to be restricted to the same general area of growth in the narrows between Horse Island and the mainland."*

However, milfoil is tricky and it can **break off and root in new areas, sprout up again in old spots, and even grow under ice!** For this reason **with your support** our milfoil eradication campaign can grow faster than the milfoil and we can beat this threat back! **Your support has made these efforts to locate and mark milfoil growth more efficient. It will further enable us to expand the team's search to other areas of the lake to ensure that it can be contained!** We must not let it spread to this ugly scenario →



MILFOIL-CHOKED LAKE

Who's Your Local Hero?

This year at our Annual Meeting, the PLIA would like to recognize the people who are the most important part of this organization: **YOU!**

We are looking to celebrate the many members of our association who, over the years, have made significant and lasting contributions to the work we do. **After all, those who donate their time, their money, and their talents to pursuing our mission are the real heroes of the PLIA!**

Newcomer or old timer, who has impressed you with their devotion to Pawtuckaway Lake over the years? Please use the form below or contact us at Info@PawtuckawayLake.com with your nomination.



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

VOLUNTEER NOMINATION

(mail to PLIA, PO Box 30, Raymond, NH 03077)

I would like to nominate _____, of _____
Name Address

As an outstanding Pawtuckaway Lake Lover. My reasons are:

My Name _____

Telephone Number _____

The mission of the PLIA is to monitor and act upon environmental and safety issues that affect Pawtuckaway Lake, to educate the public on the conservation, protection, and improvement of water quality, natural shoreline, wildlife habitat, recreational resources, safety, and natural resources as they pertain to the welfare and interests of Pawtuckaway Lake.

To that end, the PLIA collaborates with conservation commissions, planning boards, state and federal entities, land trusts, and other conservation organizations working to conserve or protect natural resources that have an impact on the Lamprey River watershed that includes Pawtuckaway Lake.

We invite you to explore this newsletter, become informed about our organization, enjoy our "little piece of paradise", become a PLIA member, renew your membership, and consider joining our dedicated volunteers to help us achieve our mission. You'll be in good company!

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP 2018

MAIL TAX DEDUCTIBLE 501(c)(3) CHECK & FORM TO: PLIA Membership PO Box 30, Raymond

Name _____

Lake Address _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Lake Phone _____

Cell #1 _____ Cell #2 _____

Email Address _____

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

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

Thank you for your support!

PLIA

P.O. Box 30

Raymond, NH 03077