

SPRING 2022

PawPrints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association

www.pawuckawaylake.com



President's Message *by Steve Soreff*

Welcome to your PLIA! I want to share with you three things. **First**, about the Board of Directors: as President Kennedy said in his inaugural address, "The torch has passed to a new generation". The Board has gained some new members who have brought fresh ideas, perspectives, and energy. **Second**, our partnership with the Town of Nottingham has grown (see p. 3). We have built a trail bridge with the Conservation Commission, spruced up the Town beach, collected litter on Route 156, offered community education about detecting, preventing, and removing invasive species, and participated in the town's 300th celebrations. And **Third**, our protection of Pawtuckaway Lake has never been more important than now. Our milfoil infestation is almost at a tipping point. Never has our vigil in mitigating this menace been more critical. Finding and removing this invasive pest is essential. The PLIA's responsibilities are now clear. We need your support and volunteering to meet this challenge. Join with us as we march into the summer of 2022. **And, see you on the lake!**

GOOD NEWS!

This year's Town elections gave the PLIA and the Aquatic Invasive Species Fund a boost! Thanks to member support at the Deliberative Session and good voter education, citizens in Nottingham approved a \$5,000 budget item for our Lake Host Program and an appropriation of \$10,000 to grow the Fund so it will be available in the future to help all water bodies in Town facing an invasive species crisis.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Annual Meeting.....	p. 2
About Our Sponsors.....	p. 2
Collaboration with the Town.....	p. 3
Milfoil in Pawtuckaway.....	p. 4
Paddle Poker Tournament.....	p. 5
Winter Events.....	p. 5
Ice Out Contest.....	p. 5
New T-Shirts.....	p. 5
Spotlight on Members.....	p. 6
Annual Meeting Speaker.....	p. 6
Road Reps.....	p. 7
Membership.....	p. 7

ANNOUNCING Annual Meeting Back on Schedule

- * Remember how our Annual Meeting used to be held in June, before summer began?
- * Well, now that COVID restrictions have relaxed somewhat, we can resume our usual schedule and continue our recent tradition of holding it at the State Park.
- * So, save the date for this year's Annual Meeting: **June 11, 2022!** We promise a lively program of information, entertainment, and good company. *Details on page 2.*

ANNUAL MEETING - LET'S DO IT AGAIN!



We are returning to the Pavilion at the State Park for our annual gathering of members and friends, but we are also returning to our old meeting time, at the beginning of June. This will help us kick off the new season, while giving us the chance to review our work from last year. As before, entry to the State Park will be **FREE** to all comers!

SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022

9:30 AM

AGENDA

9:30 - 10:00 Registration, Membership, Refreshments

10:00 - 10:15 Socialize, Program Displays, Hat and T-Shirt Sales

10:15 - 10:40 Business Meeting, Reports from Program Chairs

10:40 - 10:45 Local Hero Award

10:45 - 11:45 Speaker ([see p.6 for details](#)) and Questions, Wrap Up

The map below shows the State Park and the Pavilion. The sign at the intersection of Route 156 and Mountain Road indicates that the State Park entrance is two miles down Mountain Road. Drive into the Park to the entry booth and let the Park staff know you are going to the PLIA Annual Meeting at the Pavilion. Entrance will be **free of charge**.

Continue down the Park road until you see a sign for the Pavilion to the right, then take your next left. **And welcome!**



The sponsors appearing throughout this edition of PawPrints are local, reliable, and enthusiastic boosters of Pawtuckaway Lake and the PLIA. We hope you will show your appreciation for their support by visiting their establishments and using their services.



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THE PLIA IS A CITIZEN OF NOTTINGHAM

As Nottingham is a “Defender of Liberty”, so the PLIA is a “Defender of the Lake”

There are many ways in which the PLIA partners with the Town of Nottingham to demonstrate civic pride and participation in our community. We salute Nottingham on its 300th birthday! Here are a few examples from the past twelve months:

Building a Bridge



Last spring, members of the PLIA collaborated with the Nottingham Conservation Commission Trails Committee to build a bridge over a segment of the North River running across a trail. One of our members put together a design and list of materials for the project, another member obtained an in-kind donation of the materials from Home Depot, and other PLIA members joined Trails Committee members to construct the bridge. The site was in the Marsh Woods conservation area. Hikers can walk across our handiwork! We encourage everyone to visit this lovely hiking trail: https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf3611/f/pages/marsh_woods_trail_map_text_v2.pdf

Providing Community Instruction on Aquatic Invasive Species

On April 3, 2022, the PLIA called in experts and tapped its Program Chairs to offer free Community Workshops to anyone in Nottingham interested in protecting a local water body from invasive species. First: identifying aquatic invasive plants in or around a lake or pond. Next: inspecting boats and trailers to detect invasive “hitchhikers” before they enter a water body, plus how to clean, drain, and dry water craft to avoid the spread of these invaders. Then: how the PLIA searches for and removes milfoil, one of the most pervasive of the invasives. Finally, a complimentary pizza lunch. We are happy to share what we’ve learned with the entire community: <https://pawtuckawaylake.com/community-volunteer-training-workshops/>



Cleaning Up the Beach

A crew of PLIA members volunteered to take on the Town beach as a service project for Nottingham Clean Up Day. From 8:00 - 11:30 AM on April 16th they brought their tools, rolled up their sleeves, and got to work making the place clean and fresh and ready for summer.

Picking Up Roadside Litter

For many years the PLIA has organized two annual clean-ups along a stretch of Route 156. This past year we added a third day of collecting litter and have begun recycling aluminum cans as they are discovered. We are proud to be members of the State’s Adopt-A-Highway Program in our Town, doing our part to keep Nottingham beautiful. **Clean and Scenic!**

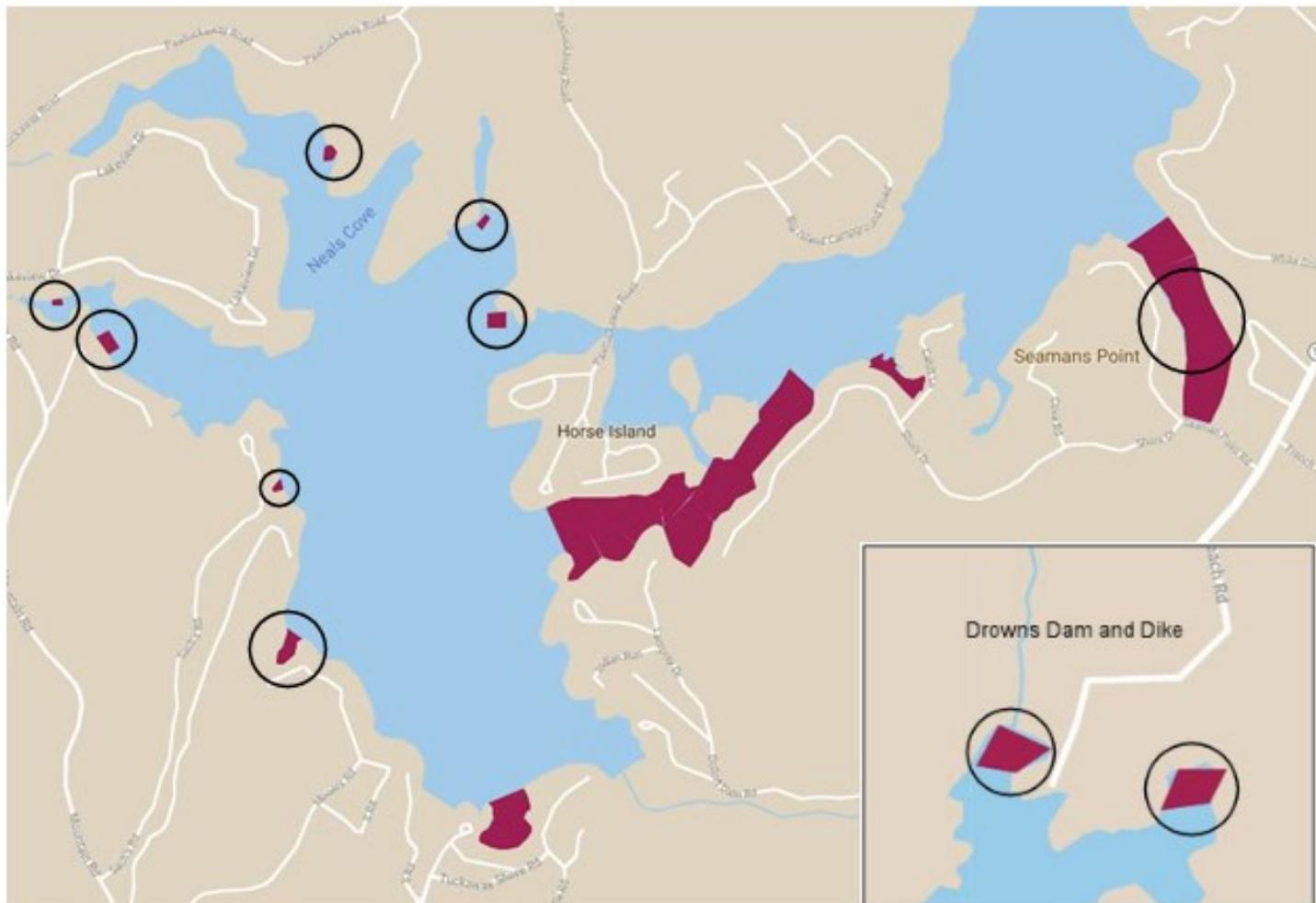


Joining in on Nottingham 300th Birthday Events

A Town Picnic at the Pawtuckaway State Park is planned in September. We hope to offer boat rides around the lake to interested participants. **Stay tuned.....**

Milfoil Status Update

The Milfoil Team was very active over the past summer, with 58 separate dives and the removal of 318 gallons of milfoil. The amount of milfoil increased substantially over 2020, when 74 gallons were removed from the lake. Two areas contributed the most to this increase: Gove's Cove, where 121 gallons were removed, and the State Park Canoe Rental area, where 65 gallons were removed. In addition, milfoil was discovered in small quantities in a number of new areas of the lake. Existing infestations appear in red, with those new areas circled, in the map below. Searches will begin with kayaks and aerial drones this spring after ice out, with diving for removal to begin sometime in May.



DID YOU KNOW? Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. They don't get paid—not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless! Last year they donated over **2,800 hours** of their time to our programs, activities, events, and mission. At \$25 per hour, that would be worth **\$70,000!** Please consider becoming a volunteer.

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Second Annual Paddle Poker Tournament

This event has proved wildly popular. Last year, it was sponsored by the Mountain Road Trading Post and featured



several amazing raffle prizes as well. Armed with a map, paddlers could choose the order of “stations” they visited. At each one they chose a card—or if they had purchased an extra poker hand, two cards—and enjoyed some refreshment. When they had completed their circuit, all participants gathered at the home of Barb and Les

Thompson, where more refreshments awaited and raffle tickets were available for purchase. Once players had decided whether to buy an extra card, the winners were announced and raffle tickets were drawn. It is fair to say that everyone who participated felt like a winner, whether their name was called or not. What do you think, folks—should we do it again this year?



Winter Events on the Lake

Many people were excited about our plans to hold a cornhole tournament on the ice this past winter. Mother Nature nixed those plans, but the interest in having a winter event was high, so we promise to organize something this winter, weather permitting, of course. We might add pick-up cross-country skiing, skating, or snowshoeing excursions as well!

Ice Out

One of the first signs of spring on the lake is the melting of its ice covering. Member Chris Fortin organized the very popular Ice Out Contest this year. Thanks to generous prizes donated by Troy Brown of the Mountain Road Trading Post, winners Gary St. Pierre and Jacquie Martin won valuable gift certificates. Thank you, Chris and Troy for all the fun!

New T-Shirts



The PLIA has ordered new T-shirts that will be for sale at the Mountain Road Trading Post, as part of our collaboration with Troy Brown. The slogan is one that we have used countless times to describe what Pawtuckaway Lake means to many of us. **We hope you like it!** In addition, hats will be offered for sale at PLIA events throughout the year. **Join us whenever you can!**





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Spotlight on Members

Without our members the PLIA would simply not exist. Their support, their willingness to volunteer, and their investment in the lake and its health are what keep our programs running. If all goes well, we can thank them in person at a Volunteer Appreciation Cookout this fall!



Last year, we introduced **Sonoma Potavin** at our Annual Meeting. She and her team of classmates put together an ambitious project to locate and remove Chinese Mystery Snails from the lake. They have a dedicated kayak from which they snorkel in search of this invasive creature. In summer they can be seen around Pawtuckaway shallows searching for and removing these pests. Sonoma's team even has a website: <https://underpressurenh.wixsite.com/website>. If you see the kids in the water this summer, please cheer them on!

THANK YOU, SONOMA!



Annual Meeting Speaker



This year we are pleased to welcome Krystal Costa Balanoff, Conservation Program Manager at NH LAKES. Krystal is an expert on natural resources and sustainability, and is very knowledgeable about plants and how they can help deter storm water runoff into natural water bodies. She will explain the NH LAKES program called LakeSmart, designed to help owners of lakeside property protect the water that abuts their land. She can also offer helpful and specific suggestions to improve every property's lake-friendliness. And guess what? Years ago Krystal worked as a Lake Host here on Pawtuckaway, so she will be returning to her old stomping grounds!

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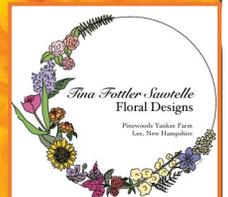


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Road Reps

Ever heard of a Road Representative? These “ambassadors” from the PLIA cover their neighborhoods around the lake. They offer new residents Welcome Booklets and materials, introduce them to the PLIA, and invite them to join. They update existing members’ contact information and brief them on PLIA news, milfoil updates, and planned events. They ask residents if they would like to become involved in the PLIA and they explain ways they can do that, according to their interests and abilities. Most important, they encourage questions, complaints, and suggestions about the PLIA, then answer them or find someone who can. Getting feedback from our members is the best way to keep improving! Do you know who your “Road Rep” is? Want to be one? Contact Chair Pete Wawrzonek: petejw16@gmail.com.



DID YOU KNOW?

The lion’s share of the funds that support our programs comes from membership donations. 100% of every dollar contributed through membership is used to support the programs that help protect Pawtuckaway Lake and its watershed: Lake Hosts, Weed Watchers, Milfoil Team, Water Quality Testing, and Road Clean-Up. Everyone benefits from the work the PLIA does for the lake, so everyone should be part of it. Of the approximately 415 households on or around the lake, about 205 were PLIA members as of December 2021. **That’s only about 49%!** You can help us boost that number! Membership dues and donations can easily be made online through PayPal, but there is also an “auto pay” option you can set up via PayPal to spread out smaller payments across the calendar year. You can use the coupon in this newsletter or go to: <http://pawtuckawaylake.com/membership/>. **PLEASE JOIN US!**

*Can’t remember whether you have paid or renewed your membership this year? Want the convenience of recurring small monthly payments that will satisfy your membership dues so you **never have to think about it again**? Memberships and donations can easily be made online, with PayPal. And look for “auto pay”. Just make sure you give us your contact information so we can stay in touch with you throughout the year!*

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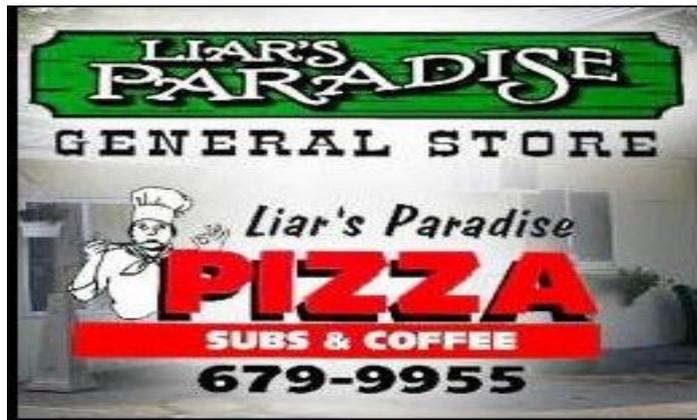


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