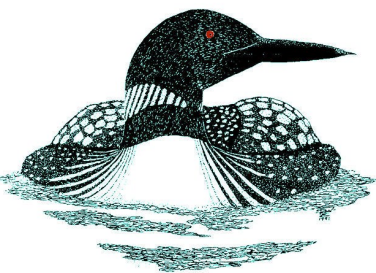


SPRING 2023 Paw Prints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association

www.pawtuckawaylake.com



President's Message by Steve Soreff



This is our moment! Since our inception we have sought to protect, preserve, and educate about Pawtuckaway Lake. We have done so through the Weed Watchers, Lake Hosts, Milfoil Team, Water Testing, and Road Reps. But now the lake is threatened and endangered by Milfoil growth and the State Park expansion. We need to

step up all our efforts, find new allies, and seek new solutions. We will protect and preserve Pawtuckaway Lake. We are called to action: we move forward! **And thank you!**

Paddle Poker

Last year's Annual Paddle Poker Tournament was a tremendous success, raising over \$2,200! The committee responsible for planning and executing this wildly popular fundraising event has pledged to do it again in September! **So, stay tuned** for further details.



GOOD NEWS—AGAIN!

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

Plan to Expand State Park Campgrounds

- * The State Park Planning and Development Department has announced a major expansion of campsites at Pawtuckaway.
- * These 35 additional sites will provide hookups for water and electricity to attract more RV campers to the Park.
- * Many questions have been raised about how this expansion might impact our milfoil crisis and erosion problems.
- * A public meeting was recently organized by the PLIA. **See p 7.**

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ANNUAL MEETING—**NEW TIME!**

This year's meeting promises to be more important than ever. Our milfoil infestations have reached a tipping point! The State is planning a major Park expansion! Now is the time to get informed and get active.

We promise a morning packed with information and celebration this year. Once again the State Park has offered its lovely Pavilion to host our meeting, **FREE** to all comers. Please join us as we review our accomplishments from last year and plan our activities for the coming season.



Just tell the staff at the State Park entry booth you are going to the PLIA meeting - entry is free - and drive down the Park road 1.35 miles to the sign for our meeting.



You—our members—make this organization possible. We look forward to welcoming you and this new season on the lake.

PLEASE COME EARLY! OUR SPEAKER IS OPENING THE MEETING! She is an expert on milfoil management, so bring your questions.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 2023
9:00 AM**

AGENDA

- 9:00 - 9:30** Registration, Membership, Refreshments
- 9:30 - 10:30** Speaker (see p. 5 for details) and Questions
- 10:30 - 10:45** Socialize, Program Displays, T-Shirt Sales
- 10:45 - 11:30** Business Meeting, Reports from Program Chairs
- 11:30 - 11:40** Local Hero Award
- 11:40 - 11:45** Wrap Up

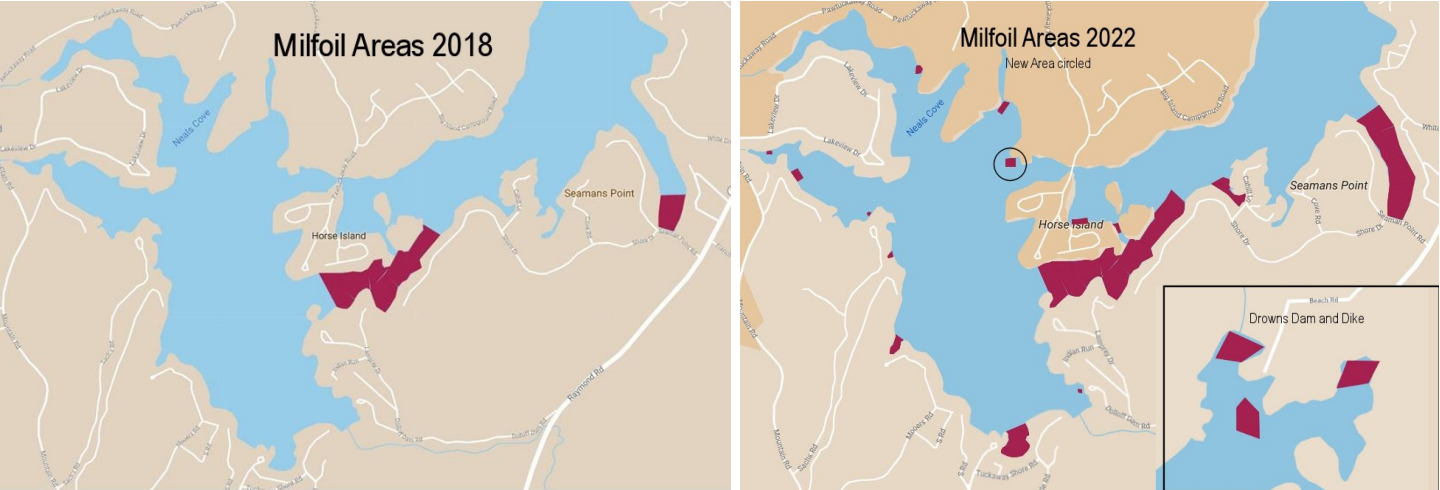
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Milfoil Team



Bad news! While only one new area of milfoil was found in 2022 vs 2021, milfoil was still found in all the same areas as the previous year. In addition, the amount of milfoil extracted in 2022 was significantly higher (458 gallons vs 316 gallons). Gove’s Cove (120 gallons), Little Cahill Cove (163 gallons), and the State Park Canoe Rental (31 gallons) are of particular concern. For the first time, we had to hire Weed Control Divers to remove milfoil several times. That gets expensive! Milfoil can grow throughout the year—even under ice—if it has sunlight. With the relatively mild winter and the very late formation of ice , we expect that milfoil will be especially prolific this year. As a result of our increasing milfoil issues, we have asked the NH DES to help us create a plan. While more needs to be done, one recommendation may be to use a herbicide in selected areas. Amy Smagula from NH DES will be speaking at the PLIA Annual Meeting and will explain the choices for milfoil control. **PLEASE** come and direct your questions and concerns to her for answers.

Please Respect These Flags!



When our Milfoil Team is out under the water searching for milfoil to be marked for extraction, and when our Milfoil Control Divers are down there actually extracting the milfoil, they need to be safe! Boaters who come too close to their dive sites can injure them or their equipment with their propellers, hulls, or

fishhooks. Kayak support team members protect the divers and guide boaters around the dive site. They wear orange vests and carry “Diver Down” flags. **PLEASE** look out for these flags. They are a WARNING to stay at least 150 feet from the dive area. If that is not possible, then you must throttle down to headway speed and follow any directions from the support kayakers. **Thank you!**



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Lake Hosts

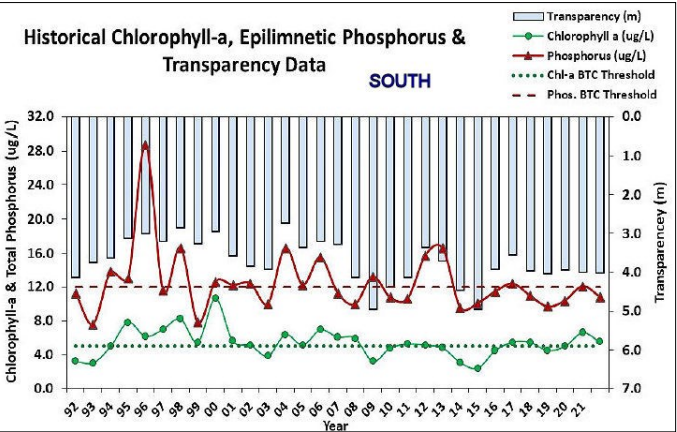
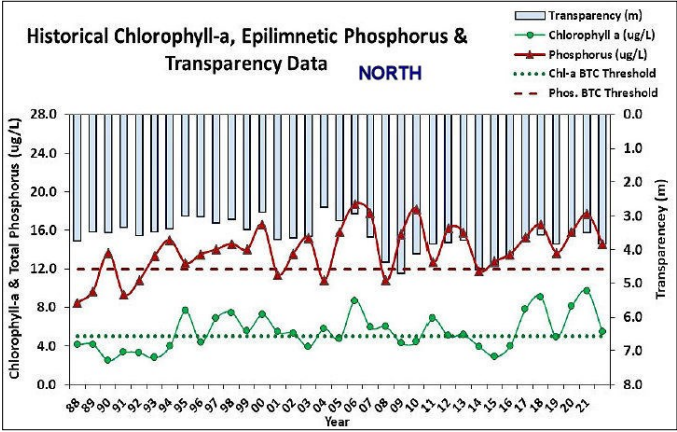
Our Lake Host Program has made some changes to allow Chair Dee Decker some breathing space from the job of running the entire enterprise almost single-handedly. Please welcome Bruce Henden, who has agreed to take over the responsibilities of Lake Host Manager while working as a Lake Host at the Fundy boat ramp. Dee will continue to serve as Coordinator, supervisor, and liaison with the Town, NH LAKES, and the PLIA Board. We think this will make our Program even stronger.



On April 1, 2023. Dee and our **Weed Watcher** Co-Chair Steve Soreff organized a successful training, free to all comers, about recognizing—and preventing the spread of—aquatic invasive species. All members of the public were invited, because there are many local waterways to protect. The event was standing room only. This year our Lake Host Program begins on May 1st, the earliest in the state!

Water Testing

The PLIA Water Testing Program has been in existence for many decades. It is part of the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program of NH DES and it monitors the water quality of Pawtuckaway through monthly sampling and testing of the lake and its tributaries. Our team, led by Mark Wageling, is well trained and capable, out in all kinds of weather! One of the pollutants they test for is phosphorus. As these graphs illustrate, levels of phosphorus have remained fairly stable, especially in recent years.



The north end - to the left - has higher levels than the south. We are investigating this phenomenon.

Ice-Out Contest



It seemed like, only a few weeks after member Chris Fortin had recorded the date for ice-IN, he was challenging other members to guess the date for ice-OUT! Troy Brown offered to sponsor with prizes from the Mountain Road Trading Post, and the contest was on! Finally, on March 25, member Debbie Johnson was declared the winner of the first prize, a \$50 gift certificate, and on April 3, member Gary St. Pierre became the winner of the second prize, a \$25 gift certificate. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to Chris and Troy!

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.

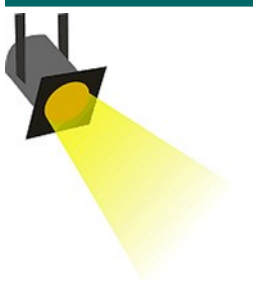
Annual Meeting Speaker



We are thrilled to announce that Amy Smagula, Chief Limnologist at NH DES, will be our featured speaker for Annual Meeting. Amy has long provided expertise to instruct our Weed Watchers about aquatic invasive species. We use a slide presentation she created specially for Pawtuckaway Lake in our trainings! For many years she has also assisted our Milfoil Team in its efforts to eradicate our milfoil. Recently she produced a comprehensive study with recommendations for long-term management of our milfoil invasion. You are invited to read it here: https://pawtuckawaylake.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Long-Term-Milfoil-Management-Plan_2023.pdf before you hear her speak. **Annual meeting starts earlier** this year. Don't be late or you might miss her presentation!

Spotlight on Members

We like to shine a spotlight on our members because without them, we would simply not exist. Their support of our programs, their dedication to the lake and our mission, and their willingness to volunteer are worth more than gold. When you see them on the lake, be sure to say **THANKS!**



Chris Fortin joined the PLIA Board of Directors shortly after he and his wife Lindsay moved here in 2017. Even after he left the Board, Chris has remained an active member, designing and printing our decals,

participating in fundraisers, and organizing our annual Ice-Out contest. Using his drone camera,

Chris has shared gorgeous aerial drone photos and videos of the lake, even scanning the lake shallows last spring to see if he could spot early milfoil growths, which he did! Chris has energy and inventive spirit to spare.

Thank you, Chris!!



The Milfoil Team welcomed **Bob Given** in 2021, when he was trained on the hookah to search for milfoil. In 2022, to relieve Team Chair Neil Santos of some of his workload, Bob offered to continue diving while organizing the searches. In 2022 he participated in most of the search dives and also organized them, creating email reports with the results of searches. Later in the summer, he also provided summaries of the extractions. Bob is very diligent and thorough in his organizing and also in his diving. He is a valuable asset to the Milfoil Team.

Thank you, Bob!!





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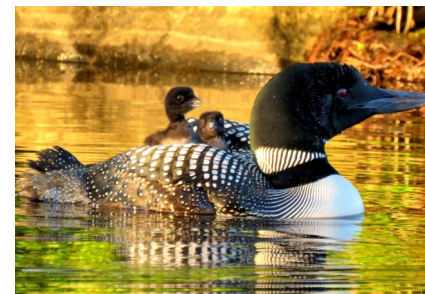
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Wildlife on Pawtuckaway

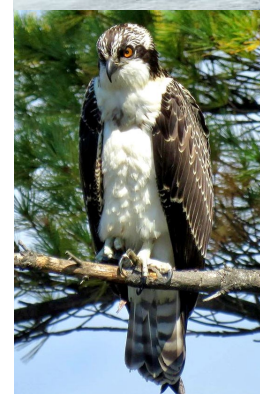


Pawtuckaway Lake is home to a variety of interesting wildlife, as you can see from the pictures – all of which were taken here at the lake. There are two pairs of nesting loons that have graced us with their presence and have

successfully produced offspring over time. Floating signs warn boaters to respect their nesting sites. Bald eagles also enjoy the bounty of the lake; although they do

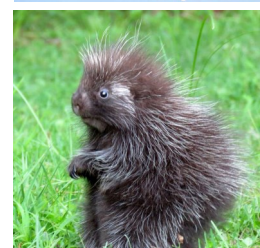


not nest here, they are frequent visitors looking for a meal. Did you know that juvenile eagles like this one to the right have longer flight feathers (wing and tail) than they will ever have again? Juveniles are often mistaken for golden eagles because of their size and coloring.



Birds, amphibians, mammals, reptiles – they all enjoy the welcoming habitat of Pawtuckaway,

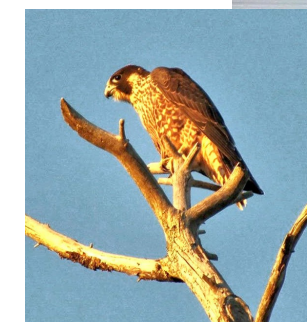
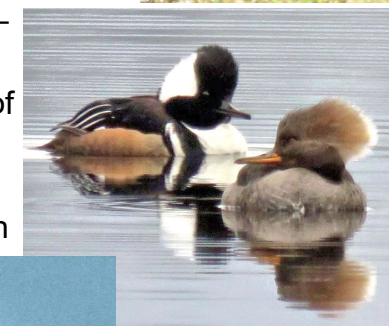
teeming with natural resources to sustain them. There are so many species of animals that grace the lake with their presence that many visitors and residents have had their share of what may be called “National Geographic” moments. When possible, they are captured in pictures. When not, they are stored forever in our memory banks. The



beauty of Pawtuckaway

Lake is that it provides boundless opportunities to witness those moments - we need only take time to

be out there and look around. You will be rewarded if you do.



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Pawtuckaway State Park Expansion

On April 11, 2023, an informational meeting was convened at the Nottingham Town offices with the Director of State Parks Brian Wilson and Director of State Park Planning and Development Johanna Lyons. The topic was adding 35 “improved” campsites and other amenities to Pawtuckaway State Park, to allow stakeholders to learn more about the project and how it might affect their communities. The public was invited, 70 people attended, and the proceedings were broadcast and recorded.

After hearing from officials about the reasons for the planned expansion, members of the audience expressed concerns about the ways in which they feared it would overburden an already stressed Pawtuckaway Lake. Among those issues were milfoil spread, lakefront erosion, bacterial contamination, and loss of wildlife habitat. You can view the video recording of the meeting here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ob2GU3cpNKg>. *Stay tuned for more news.*

Your membership in the PLIA is very much appreciated and is very important. As you are no doubt aware, there has been an increase in the growth of invasive milfoil in the lake. It has spread from the South Channel and nearby coves into the State Park’s canoe and kayak rental area, as well as the Town beach in the northern part of the lake. Our volunteer diver and support teams have been actively finding, marking, and removing milfoil. As a result of having fewer Weed Control Divers, we have had to pay for extraction services. Membership over the years has been steady, and as new residents have moved in many have joined the PLIA. With approximately 400+ residences on/around the lake, about 50% of those households are members! We all have vested interests in the lake and everything that it has to offer. If you are new to the lake or if your membership has been inactive, we encourage you to join or to renew. The strength of the PLIA is our membership. 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 automatic recurring small monthly payments or annual renewals 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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