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PRESIDENTS REPORT

By George Voltz

Now with summer upon us and the Lake waking up from its winter lull I thought I would take a moment to update the members of the PLIA on some of the happenings which have occurred, along with excerpts on the Annual Meeting, with some comings and goings of our valuable volunteers.

The PLIA started the summer with its Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting this year had a change of format in order to bring some life back into this Meeting. This year instead of having our guest speakers give their normal speeches and video display we thought it would be interesting to have them in two different panels (Civic and Water). It was our hope that by placing our speakers into these two panels it would enable the members present to ask questions or give their comments and become more involved in the Annual Meeting. In our opinion this format change was a great success and we will be using it again in years to come.



George Voltz greeting PLIA members.



I also took the time at the Annual Meeting to thank two of our long time volunteers, who for one reason or another, will not be able to devote their time as in prior years. I first thanked Judy Clewes for all of her time and effort which she put into working with the PLIA Road Reps., putting together packets of useful information with respect to the lake and, when needed, delivering these packets to areas where there were no Road Reps. I then thanked Dave Finn for all of his years, efforts and imagination to putting together our PawPrints newsletter. Dave was instrumental in producing our first color

(Continued on page 2)

About the PLIA

The Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association is a Private, Non-Profit organization formed to monitor and act upon environmental and safety issues in the Pawtuckaway Lake watershed area and other issues of concern to its members. The Association routinely conducts water sampling under the New Hampshire Volunteer Lake Assessment program of the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. Other activities (sailboat races, fishing derbies, etc.) may be coordinated by the Association, but are funded by program participants.

version of PawPrints and it is through his dedication and hard work that we now have an unbelievable colored newsletter. Again I would like to thank both Judy and Dave for all of their time, effort and hard work and also years of volunteering with the PLIA.

At this time in the meeting I took the time to introduce the individuals who would be taking over for Judy and Dave. Therese Thompson, who has graciously volunteered to take over as Road Rep. Coordinator. Therese has been an active volunteer with the PLIA and with all of her ideas I think she will be a real asset as the Road Rep. Coordinator. If you would like to become involved by being a Road Rep. or would like some information about what this involves please contact Therese at 603-895-3050. Starting with this issue, Karen Batchelder will be taking over as the new PawPrints Designer. Karen has a background in graphic design and she has offered to develop a new format for our newsletter. If you would like to submit articles and/or photos please send them to karenbatchelder@comcast.net.

We again had the annual July 4th Boat Parade, which was lead by our Water Testing Chairman and Vice President, Jack Hodgson. Jack's boat displayed the PLIA Water Testing Banner and lead the parade from the big lake all the way through the channel into the south side and down Mountain Brook Cove. Good Job Jack!

This is our 2nd year that we have the Sailboat Races back on the Lake. John Decker has taken over the Sailboat Races and holds the races every Tuesday night beginning around 6:00 PM. John then sends me an email with the

(continued on page 3)



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Pawtuckaway State Park Office
(603) 895-3031

results of the races. These results are then put onto our website. If you would like more information with respect to the Sailboat Races you can go to Pawtuckawaylake.com or contact John at 734-2024.

As of the date of this newsletter there has been only one incident on the Lake which I felt needed to be reported to the members of the PLIA. On July 15th an individual and/or individuals entered the State Park during the early morning hours, placed 5 one-gallon plastic containers of waste oil into the Lake. This individual and/or individuals went knee deep into the Lake and removed the covers off of these containers and submerged them so that the waste oil would leak out. Fortunately, the morning crew of the State Park spotted what appeared to be an oil spill and immediately reported it to the proper authorities. It is my understanding that only a quart of the oil leaked from each of the containers into the Lake and the oil was contained in a small area by oil retention booms using special material designed to soak up oil and not water which would absorb the oil that did leak into the Lake. Unfortunately, none of the PLIA officers found out about this incident until after the damage had already been done so we were unable to get this information out to you as soon as we would have liked.

PLIA ROAD REPS

by Therese Thompson

Being a road rep provides an opportunity to hand out information about PLIA to your neighbors. I want to thank everyone for your help.

This Spring 2005 the following people were PLIA road reps:

Rev. Dr. Dewey Peterson: Barderry Lane

Jon Crowell: Lake View Drive & Lookout Point Lane

Clair Boudreau: Mooers Road

Karen Batchelder: Shore Drive

Ann & Bob Gifford: Seaman's Point Road, Cahill Lane, Cove Road

Celeste Schmitt: Tuckaway Shores, Meindl, & Brustle Roads

Celeste Schmitt: Jampsa Trail

Jon White: White's Grove Road

Andrea Jackson: Highland Ave.

Mary Markham: Sachs Road

Therese Thompson: Beach Head Road, Mountain Road, Doloff Dam Road, Lamprey Drive, & Indian Run

Next Spring 2006 the following people will be joining us as Road Reps:

Frank Case: Beach Head Road, Mountain Road

Ellie & Dwight Crow: Barderry Lane

Bud & Jane Bonsor: Lake View Drive, Lookout Point Lane


Denise Nadeau: Shore Drive

Sharon Bockus: Cove Road

I am looking for people on the following roads to become a road rep & help us next Spring 2006:

Doloff Dam Road, Lamprey Drive, Indian Run, Tuckaway Shores, Meindl, and Brustle Roads. Please call me if you want to help out next Spring. **Therese Thompson 895-3050.**

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JOIN THE PLIA EMAIL NOTIFICATION LIST

This list is for PLIA use ONLY and will not be given out to anyone. We send out notices regarding upcoming monthly meetings, special meetings, upcoming events, Town issues, etc. **YOU MUST BE A PAID MEMBER** Send your email address to cvoltz@pawtuckaway.com and she will add your name to the email; and if you already are on the email notice list and have changed your email address please send the corrected address to cvoltz@pawtuckaway.com.

FYI Lake Draw Down Begins October 11th. The plan is to draw down a full 7 feet

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BREAKTHROUGH ! THE TOWN AND THE LAKE

by Tom Duffy

This year marks a watershed in the watershed! Through the efforts of the PLIA, the Town of Nottingham is working closely with us to help us study and preserve Pawtuckaway. First, the Town voted to budget \$5000 at Annual Meeting for a study to learn more about the dynamics of algal blooms, some of which are toxic, and their causes. The PLIA contributed \$1250 to the study, which is being conducted by top ranked UNH Biologists. In addition, the Town has formed a Committee – Pawtuckaway Lake Advisory Committee (PLAC) which meets monthly to discuss quality issues affecting the Lake and surrounding watershed. Mary Bonser is the Selectman Representative and several lake residents are on the Committee, including Therese Thompson who is a driving force. The public is invited to attend these sessions as well. They are very informative.

This marks the beginning of strong dialogue between lake residents and the Town. It allows all of us to form a united voice to State Officials in all departments. It enables us to apply for grants to fund improvements regarding water quality issues, and we are doing that now! A strong committee is created through participation, just like a strong PLIA. Please try to attend whenever possible. Call Tom Duffy for more info at 303-3039 or tduffy9@comcast.net

MOVING TO PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE

by Steve Soreff

As of the June 11 meeting I am selling my home in flatland territory, Worcester, Massachusetts and moving to the shores of Pawtuckaway. So I got to wondering, why I am doing this? In the tradition of Henry David Thoreau, it was a deliberate decision. On one level I wanted to be closer to nature. As Henry did by living for two years on Walden Pond. The idea of watching the full four seasons from our deck near the Dolloff Dam is very appealing.

I have never lived on a lake before. By history, I had been a sailor of the Atlantic. I had loved the salt smell and sea breeze. There are the endless possibilities of the ocean and the beckoning just over the horizon. Yet, many of my friends had extolled the great advantages in lake living. Even in Maine with its 2,500 miles of coastline, the residents there covet their lakefront lives. They cite with enthusiasm all the possibilities that the inland water offers, you can actually swim in it versus the ocean where the best you can do is a quick dunk. So I am looking forward to a four season participation in the lake including cross country skiing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, boating, bird watching, hiking and climbing although I do not see myself ice fishing.

Then I recalled the words of Robert Frost that fences make good neighbors. Was I moving into the *Live Free or Die* territory with stone walls and rugged individualism? But here experience was a better teaching. The majority of my encounters with folk in general, New Hampshire and Pawtuckaway specifically, had been marked by friendliness and welcome. Our neighbors along the Dolloff Dam road were very inviting, open, sharing and pleasant. Certainly the warmth and vitality of the annual meeting challenged the good fences argument. Perhaps to find another quote from Frost was that I was selecting the path less taken.

Finally, and the most important, I am moving here to be with my partner, Peggy Tucker. So we shall be here together watching the sun rises and sun sets at 32 Dolloff Dam Road by this summer.

Propane CO-OP

A group of PLIA members are in the early stages of forming a propane purchasing Co-Op to reduce heating costs for the 2005/2006 buying season. As individual homeowners we do not have the buying power to reduce the cost of propane. As a group, we account for a substantial amount of fuel. The propane Co-Op will bargain with propane companies to obtain the best pre-buy prices for all Co-Op members. If you are interested in participating please call Janis Duffy at 895-0407. Please leave a message with your name, phone number, and annual propane usage. The more homeowners that participate, the greater our collective buying power!

MID SEASON SUNFISH SAILING UPDATE

by John Decker

Week twelve of the 2005 Sunfish Sailing Season on Pawtuckaway Lake was the largest turn out (eight boats) we have seen since I took over the organizational tasks last season and many years before that. We are now past the halfway mark of the 22-week season. We have completed 39 races, getting in at least three races in each week with the exception of Week 1. We still have yet to have anyone from the Pawtuckaway side join us so all racing has remained on the Dolloff side.

The competition has been very exciting with many of the races being very tight. Most races take less than 20 minutes. We are all having a great time out there. Each week a synopsis of the evening's events is summarized and posted to www.pawtuckawaylake.com/sail/ so you can catch up on the entire season. Thank-you Jack Hodgson for keeping this site up to date.

We invite each of you to come out and join us in racing or to just come out and spectate. You can catch us out there starting about 6:00 on any given Tuesday from June to September. Hope to see you on the course.

John Decker
Rutherford's Sailing Club
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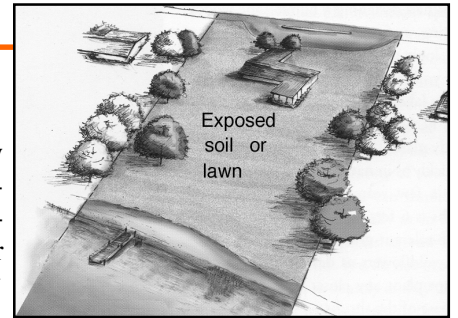
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 2nd Prize: April Bacon's Artwork - **Jan Balbol**
 3rd Prize: \$100 Gift Certificate - Mountain Road Trading Post - **The Fords**
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 Gift Certificate: Rocky Cove Cottages Canoe or Kayak Rental - **Caiati Lancaster**
 Gift Certificate: \$25.00 for Ben Franklin - **Harry Fensom**
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 Verani Gift Basket: **Dan Danis**
 White Electricians: LLC Gift Basket - **Robert Fleesom**
 Yankee Food Mart: Gift Basket - **Gretchen Kimball**
 Striker's East: Bowling Passes - **Dan**
 Bascoms: 2 quart Maple Syrup - **Brittany Kimball**
 Manchester Monarchs: T-Shirt and Yearbook **Gretchen Kimball**
 Demmons Store: Nottingham Sweatshirt and Hat **Elizabeth Capalbo**
 Mountain Road Fly Shop: Fly Tie or Fly Fishing Lesson **Sue Diamond Johnston**
 Caput Automotive: Oil Change, Tire Rotation or State Inspection - **Rusnak**
 Liar's Paradise: Pawtuckaway Sweatshirt and Hat **J. Marsh**
 Bait Shack: Fishing Pole - **Sue Diamond Johnston**
 Pawtuckaway Nursery: Plant - **Marge Starkey**

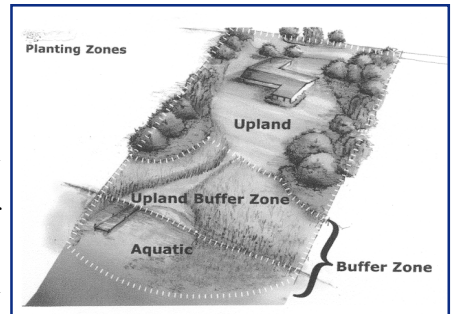
PROTECT PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE FROM EROSION OF SOIL AND NUTRIENTS INTO OUR LAKE

by *Therese Thompson*

Soil erosion into Pawtuckaway Lake causes the water to become cloudy. This loss of clarity makes feeding difficult for fish and other wildlife that rely on sight for pursuing prey. The settling of soil particles onto the lake bottom covers the native shoreline plants that provide habitat for invertebrates and young fish as food and shelter and the loss of aquatic vegetation removes a layer of protection from erosion along the shoreline from wave action due to boats and wind. Erosion



and run off from our landscapes into Pawtuckaway Lake also releases nutrients and other pollutants attached to the soil. A half a pound of lawn fertilizer can produce up to 250 pounds of aquatic plant or algae growth once it washes into a lake (Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality)!



Many of our properties slope down to Pawtuckaway Lake: a properly landscaped shoreline does not obstruct the view of the lake from our homes.

Pawtuckaway Lake Advisory Committee (PLAC) is applying for funding from a State 319 Grant in order to help prevent non-point source pollution from entering Pawtuckaway Lake. A portion of the grant will be used to landscape one to three waterfront properties, as demonstration gardens/buffers to illustrate how shoreline properties could be landscaped to prevent runoff of soil and nutrients into the lake.

We are looking for volunteer properties to be involved in this project.

Before and after photos will be taken and put into the PLIA and Nottingham Newsletters to encourage all of us with our landscapes. We will also be looking for volunteers to help install the plantings. A local landscaper will need to be hired to design these waterfront gardens and we will need to purchase the plants. Please call if you are interested in helping with or participating in these projects. A possible acknowledgment for volunteers could be planting high bush blueberries in your landscape. Therese Thompson 895-3050.

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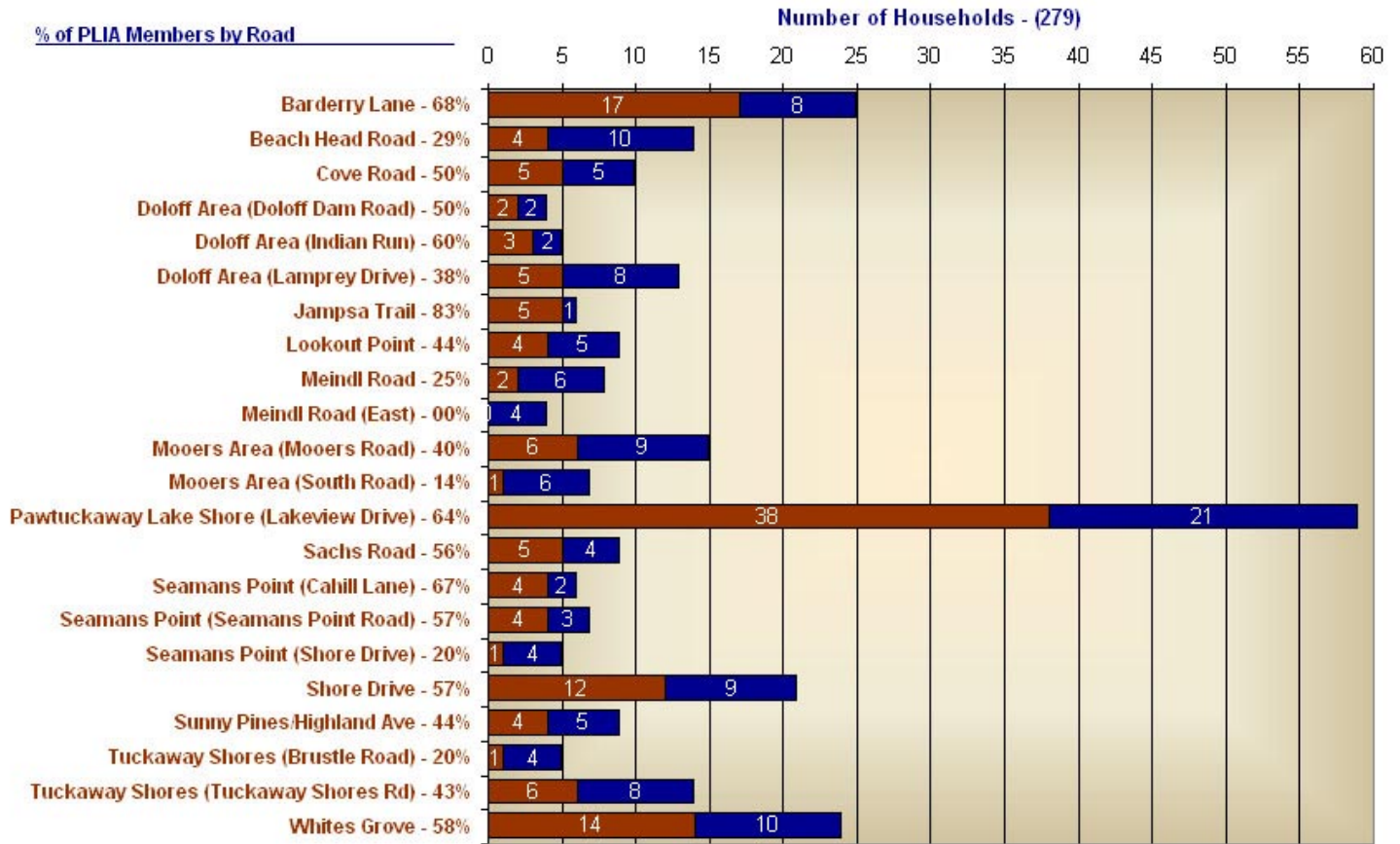
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PLIA Members vs. Non-Members

Members [143] Non-Members [136]



MEMBERSHIP

By George & Carol Voltz

Listed above are the area statistics for Membership around Pawtuckaway Lake for this year. The best area on the Lake is Jampsa Trail which has 83% membership, every home in that area has joined except one, and the second best area on the Lake is Seamans Point (Cahill Lane) which has a 67% membership, all but two homes have joined. Take a moment and compare your area of the Lake to the others – you may be surprised where your area stands in the ranking.

We would like to thank all of the PLIA members who have renewed their membership, joined as new members, joined as individuals, given donations and have had their children join individually. Without your continuous support the PLIA cannot keep the Lake's best interest at hand.

**PLEASE INVEST IN THE FUTURE OF PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE
BY BECOMING A MEMBER TODAY!**

The annual dues for PLIA are just \$10.00 per year.
Mail your check to: PLIA, PO Box 30, Raymond, NH 03077

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LIFE THE WAY IT OTTER BE!

by Jeff Gurrier

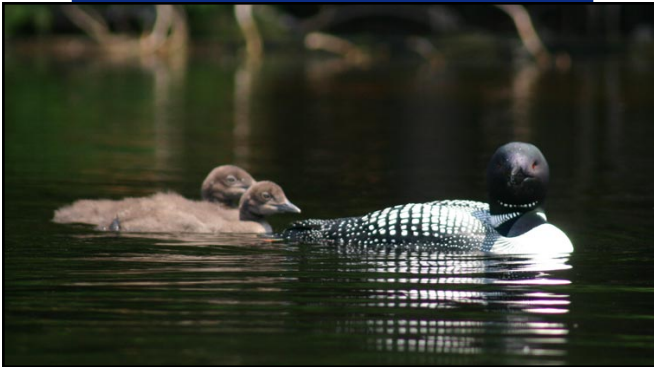
Do you find fish heads or piles of empty fresh water muscle shells down at your shoreline or on your dock? If so, maybe you are visited in the night by the Pawtuckaway otter. For several years, primarily in the fall, we have observed these little “gifts” on our dock. Then early one morning we spotted the otter fishing and sunning himself on the rocks in front of our house.

I was surprised to learn that river otters are plentiful in New Hampshire. They live in almost all of our lakes, streams, rivers, and coastal marshes. In fact, New Hampshire provides otters to other states, like Pennsylvania, to re-establish their depleted otter populations. The otter is making a comeback after nearly disappearing in the last century due to over-trapping, pollution (mostly fertilizer run off), and deforestation. Otters are more plentiful in New Hampshire now than they have been for over 100 years. So, if otters are that plentiful, why don't we see them all the time?

Otters are shy, secretive animals that live on their own after leaving their mothers at about 6 months of age. They live on or near the water in abandoned beaver lodges, tree roots or rock piles. They are primarily nocturnal, being most active from midnight until dawn. Their diet consists mainly of fish but they will eat turtles, frogs, crustaceans, bloodsuckers, reptiles and even birds! They have very sharp claws and their jaw muscles are strong enough to crack open a turtle. They are effective hunters on land where they run (hop and bound is probably a better description) at speeds of 18 mph.

Otters are between 2 ½ feet to 5 feet in total length and weigh anywhere from 12 to 35 pounds. They have very thick, dark brown fur and a layer of fat to keep them warm and dry. Their bellies are a silver/gray fur. All four of their short, powerful legs have webbed feet, which makes them excellent swimmers. They have valves in their ears and nose that close when they swim and they can hold their breath under water or ice for up to 4 minutes and swim ¼ of a mile before needing to surface for air. They are known to dive 25 to 60 feet deep, which is not a skill they need too often on Pawtuckaway.

So, next time you think you saw a **really** big beaver swimming across the lake or wonder who's been leaving you little “gifts” on your dock, keep an eye out for the Pawtuckaway otter.



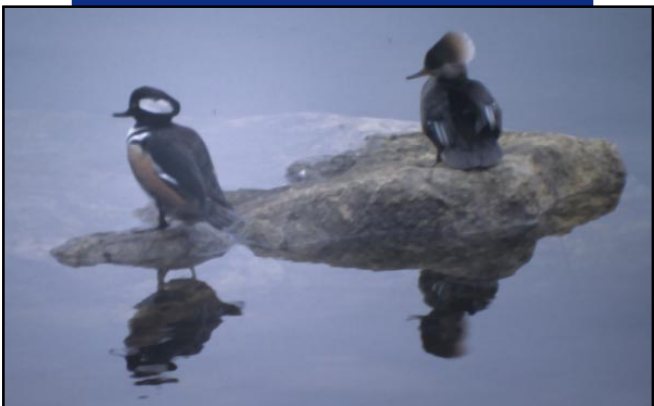
Loon chicks are always a happy sight on Pawtuckaway. Photo by Darlene Shellene

From Kevin Thompson

In early Spring, these birds come to Pawtuckaway Lake for a few days.



Ring-necked Ducks will lay their eggs in down-lined nests concealed in the vegetation near the edge of a pond, feed on the seeds of aquatic plants as well as snails and insects, and are 14-18 inches long.



Hooded Mergansers will lay their eggs in a down-lined natural tree cavity, or sometimes in a fallen hollow log, feed chiefly on small fish but also eat frogs and aquatic insects, and are 16-19 inches long.



Photos by Jeff Gurrier