

SPRING 2009

# Paw Prints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT State of the Lake 2009

by Tom Duffy

**Thank you, volunteers!** The PLIA continues to gain momentum with meaningful improvement projects thanks to your help. As a group, we are stronger than ever before.

Take a drive down Tuckaway Shores and see the **water retention garden**. Drive toward the end of Barderry Road, where Fernalds Brook comes into Pawtuckaway. See the work? The PLAC grant from DES for \$30,000 was **matched by volunteers** and the Town of Nottingham to accomplish these two site improvements.

These sites demonstrate how to prevent **run off** which brings unwanted silt, phosphorous, and salts into the lake. While we still have not stopped the deterioration of the lake, we have slowed it down and even **stabilized** it by some measures. In some categories there is even **improvement** over the last three years!

Lake health improvement takes time; nature has her own clock. To reverse the chain reaction of accelerated aging, we need to consistently and diligently apply the cures.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO JOIN IN - BUILD THE MOMENTUM!** I urge you to get involved with an active committee like Lake Hosts, Weed Watchers, PLAC, (any grant writers out there?), Pawtuckaway Kids, Fisheries, or Water Testing. **Here's why:**

◆ Last year our **LAKE HOSTS** discovered two invasive species during boat inspections and prevented them from entering the lake. Bravo! **Thank you Andrea Lawson** and all the hosts. Thank you to the Town of Nottingham for \$4000 toward the funding of this work!!

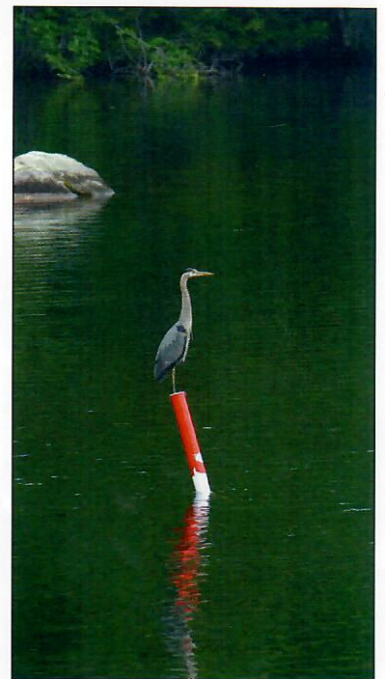
◆ Last year, the DES gave our **VLAP WATER TESTING** volunteers a grade of EXCELLENT for the perfection of their procedures and consistent sample quality. Thanks go out to **Steve Donahue** and the on-board boat team, and **Jim Kelly** and **Dwight & Ellie Crow** for tributary testing.

◆ This year, the **PLAC** committee, chaired by Bob Mooney and focused by Therese Thompson, finished the two year DES Grant. PLAC & PLIA are publishing the **Watershed Home Owners Guide**, designed by Tom Duffy.

◆ Both years, **WEED WATCHERS** has treated 4 sites for Phragmites infestation, an invasive grass. Thank you Steve Soreff, Peggy Tucker, Liz Kotowski, and the army of weed pullers.

◆ **ROADSIDE & ISLAND CLEANUP** - there's a thankless job- so let us thank **John and Steve White** for their work in organizing this effort.

And there are so many more who find the time in their busy lives to help out for a few hours a month. **So come join us!** Call any of us! Let us guide you to the right group!



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## JOIN THE PLIA EMAIL NOTIFICATION LIST

This list is for PLIA use ONLY. We send out notices regarding upcoming meetings, events, etc. YOU MUST BE A PAID MEMBER. Send your email address to [ddanis@comcast.net](mailto:ddanis@comcast.net) and we will add your name. If you already are on the email notice list and have changed your email address please send the corrected address to [ddanis@comcast.net](mailto:ddanis@comcast.net).

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## Annual Meeting

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**June 6, 2009 ♦ 9am-12 noon ♦ Nottingham School**

This is your once-a-year opportunity to get an update on the State of Pawtuckaway Lake. This year's meeting will cover these important topics:

- ♦ Water quality: Where we stand today
- ♦ The battle against invasive weeds: Are we winning or losing?
- ♦ PLAC Update and review of recent improvements to two demonstration sites
- ♦ **The New?** New Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act



## Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Boat Parade

The time has come to start planning how you can decorate your boat for the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade.

We will start gathering around the Twin Islands on the North End of the lake heading into Fundy Cove at 10:00 am on Saturday, July 4th!

**George and Carol Voltz** will be leading the parade again this year, look for their boat and begin falling in behind them. For more info contact George or Carol at [georgev@gmail.com](mailto:georgev@gmail.com).



The Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association is a private, nonprofit association 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.

**ABOUT THE PLIA**



PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE

# 2008 Lake Hosts Record Two Invasive Weed Saves!

by Donna Danis

The Lake Host Program had another successful year in 2008, with 6 paid Lake Hosts and 10 volunteers contributing more than 1,500 hours of coverage and 4,000 boat inspections at the Fundy and Horse Island boat ramps. The efforts paid off, with two "SAVES" when Lake Hosts found variable milfoil and water chestnut arriving on boat trailers at the Fundy Boat Ramp.

The program is funded by the NH Lakes Association and for the 2008 season, we were awarded a grant of \$6,000. Due to the current economic climate, the 2009 grant has been cut in half - we will be receiving only \$3,000 from NHLA. Fortunately, the voters of the Town of Nottingham overwhelmingly approved a Warrant Article requesting the Town to contribute an additional \$4,000 in funding. With these two sources, however, **we are still \$3,000 down** from the 2008 funding.

With a growing number of NH lakes infested with invasive weeds (**currently 72**), this program is becoming more and more important. As the Lake Host Program becomes more popular throughout the state, there is less money being offered to the many lake associations. To continue to receive the funding, it is important that we have the **volunteers to make the 50% match**. Please help us with volunteering as much as you can this summer. The training is free and we need your help!

## Wouldn't you like to be able to say "I saved Pawtuckaway Lake"?

Even if you only have a few hours available, whether morning or afternoon, weekdays, or weekends, **you can make a big difference in our lake's future**. Contact Celeste Schmitt at [schmittcel@hotmail.com](mailto:schmittcel@hotmail.com)



*Special thanks to Andrea Lawson, who served as the Lake Host Point Person for the 2007 & 2008 seasons. We appreciate all the time and energy Andrea gave so willingly to this position.*

### Many Thanks to the 2008 Lake Hosts:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Eric Brown      | Maureen Morrissey |
| David Burrows   | Jim &             |
| Frank Case      | Linda Rosborough  |
| Donna King      | Celeste Schmitt   |
| Heather Kleczek | Tim Schmitt       |
| Liz Kotowski    | Steve Soreff      |
| Stephan Landry  | Jill Sunde        |
| Andrea Lawson   | Therese Thompson  |
| Brenna Morris   | Peggy Tucker      |

*The PLIA is pleased to welcome back Celeste Schmitt as the 2009 Lake Host Program Manager.*



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PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE  
**Weed Watch Warriors (W<sup>3</sup>)**

by Steve Soreff and Peggy Tucker

This summer the Weed Watch program plans to expand its surveillance on Lake Pawtuckaway. We invite you to a Weed Watcher training session at the home of Steve Soreff and Peggy Tucker on 32 Dolloff Dam Road. The session will take place on Friday, June 12 from 2-4 PM with Amy Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator for the NH Department of Environmental Services.



Amy Smagula identifying a native weed found in the lake.

The more watchers we have, the more in-depth we can survey the various sections of the lake for exotic weeds. Each watcher is assigned a section of the lake to be surveyed once a month to look for any new growths. The earlier the detection the better the opportunity to keep our lake free of exotic weeds. **Please join us, we could use your help!**

The summer of 2008 marked another step in the development, and now deployment, of the Weed Watch Warriors. We began with a Saturday training session at 32 Dolloff Dam Road led by Amy Smagula. About twenty-five people attended. Amy reviewed the basic information about the different variety of weeds that can grow in the Lake which included the good, the bad and the ugly. Then Steve and Peggy divided the lake into sections so that members could choose a section that they would survey each month. By having each member of the team responsible for a section we increase our effectiveness.

We have also been **joined by some folk from Deerfield** who launch their kayaks at the state landing. This will increase our ability to survey the huge Fundy area.

Besides our on-going battle with the common weed, aka *Phragmites australis*, there were two sightings and removal of purple loosestrife in Neal's Cove last summer.

**To join the Weed Watchers** and to participate in the June 12 Training please contact Steve Soreff by calling 603-895-6120 or email soreffs15@aol.com



If you like to kayak, canoe or boat and would like to **help keep the Lake free of exotic weeds**, please contact Steve Soreff at 895-6120 or email at soreffs15@aol.com.



## WEED WATCH WARRIORS

**Phragmites at White's Cove**

*A Chronology by Steve Soreff,  
Weed Watch Warrior Co-Captain*

In the last two years we have been engaged in a process of first identifying, then ridding the Lake of *Phragmites Australis* (PA). PA is an exotic weed also known as the Common weed. Ed and Liz Kotowski made the first sighting of PA between the Twin Islands early in the 2007 season. Amy P. Smagula, Limnologist/Exotic Species Program Coordinator, NH Department of Environmental Services confirmed this site. Then others found a total of seven locations on the lake. Jeff Gurrier discovered the White's Cove infestation.

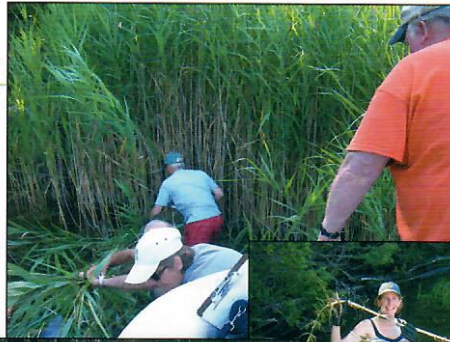
The following is a chronology of the Weed Watch Warriors efforts to eradicate the White's Cove site of PA:

On **August 11, 2007**, Captain Tom Duffy piloted his pontoon vessel over to the White's Cove site with canoe in tow to help facilitate the transportation of the cut PA over to the beach. Those participating included Donna and Elisabeth Danis, Gayle Kenney, Tom Duffy, Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff. Eric Danis provided a trailer to take the harvested Phragmites to their final resting place.

On **August 14, 2008** Steve met with Amy Smagula to tour the White's Cove site. She recommended a two pronged approach. The first would involve again cutting and pulling the Phragmites that had returned from last year's effort. The second would involve the Department of Environmental Services (DES) covering the site after the fall draw down.

We launched a clearing operation expedition on Saturday morning **August 30, 2008**. This time Gary St. Pierre captained the flagship pontoon boat to the site. The Crew assembled at the Dolloff Dam 'Yacht Club'. Tom had provided the needed canoe to ferry the slain phragmites to shore where in true synchronized fashion, Eric would arrive to take them to their final resting site.

So Captain Gary, along with Peg and Steve, proceeded through the South Channel en-route to pickup Gayle. We then



*Top Photo: Getting started, Middle photo: Gayle, Peggy and Donna display the massive rhizomes. Bottom Photo: The patch is successfully covered.*

proceeded to the White's Cove infestation. Bob Rydeen had joined the flagship pontoon boat in his and served as the expedition's official photographer.

Already, busily cutting the stocks we found Therese who had motored over to join the fray. Working together the team subdued the Phragmites. Our work culminated in five full canoe loads, ready and waiting for Eric, who arrived at 10:10 with Elisabeth and her friend.

On **November 8, 2008** Peggy and Steve kayaked over from the Dolloff Dam Yacht Club inlet and found the site all above the lake. The draw down had begun in mid October. On Amy's instructions Gary, his son Chris and Steve returned and marked the boundaries of the site with yellow painted gallon containers.

Then on **December 3, 2008**, Amy's DES crew placed a benthic barrier over the site. They ran out of black barrier so they used a white covering. As Amy said "we covered just about everything, except a few stems that were coming up in the middle of the shrub, and between a couple of rocks." **Thank you Amy and the DES team.**

## Join the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP)

This program establishes a regular volunteer-driven water sampling program to assist DES in evaluating water quality throughout the state. The volunteer monitors of VLAP are invaluable to the state of New Hampshire for **collecting data that are used to determine long-term trends.**

Steve Donahue, Chairman of the Pawtuckaway Lake Committee, is now planning for the summer season. His initial plans include conducting tests on five Tuesday mornings over the course of the summer. If you're looking for a way to support our lake protection efforts, but need something with minimal time commitment, this may be it. Contact Steve at [sjonthelake@comcast.net](mailto:sjonthelake@comcast.net) for more information.





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Best Management Practices

# Preventing Phosphorus Loading at Tuckaway Shores

by Donna Danis

As part of the \$30,000 grant the Town of Nottingham received from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES), Geosyntec Consultants, Inc. was contracted to develop a Watershed Based Plan (WBP) for Pawtuckaway Lake. During field investigations, **Geosyntec identified 12 sites** around the lake that were potential sources of pollutants into the lake and potential sites for implementing storm water best management practices and low-impact development improvements.

One of the sites identified was the **Tuckaway Shores Beach** area. The unpaved road adjacent to the Tuckaway Shores beach was identified to be a source of sediment-loading to the lake. Road grading resulted in roadside berms and a road surface of relatively fine-grained and erodible material. Sediment transported along the road by storm water collected in an area between the road and the beach area. From this area, storm water and associated sediment were directed to the lake via a paved Flume.

To prevent further phosphorus loading into the lake from this area, Geosyntec proposed the following improvements:

- ◆ Surface the road section proximal to the beach area with either pavement or a specification hardpack.
- ◆ In conjunction with any road surfacing improvement, construct rock-lined infiltration trenches to define the road boundary and infiltrate storm water runoff. The trench would either infiltrate storm water runoff or convey flows to the sediment trap and vegetated swale described below.
- ◆ Construct a stone-lined sediment trap in the roughly triangular area between the paved flume and the roadway. Regular maintenance will be required to remove fine-grained sediment as it accumulates in the sediment trap.
- ◆ Replace the paved flume with a densely vegetated water quality swale.



Photos by Elisabeth Danis

In the fall of 2008, the **crews from Town of Nottingham spent two weeks** implementing these recommendations. The beach area has been totally transformed and now represents a great example of how the **DES, PLIA, PLAC** and the **Town of Nottingham** are all **working together to prevent further declines** in Pawtuckaway Lake water quality.

The full Watershed Based Plan (WBP) for Pawtuckaway Lake can be found at [www.pawtuckawaylake.com](http://www.pawtuckawaylake.com)



## Membership

The PLIA has been ramping up its events and services over the years and has managed to stay within its' limited budget. Recently, a number of important environmental and educational initiatives are straining our resources. For close to 20 years the PLIA membership dues have been \$10 a year. While the \$10 membership level is still an option, we have introduced a new structure for dues to help cover the cost of some significant additional initiatives.

Increasingly, government support for environmental, conservation, and educational programs is taking the form of matching grants. **The PLIA must provide large amounts of volunteer hours and/or matching dollars to be eligible** for government funding of these initiatives. Our members have very busy personal and professional lives and we are finding it increasingly difficult to accumulate enough volunteer hours to cover the PLIA's share of these matching grants. Therefore, we need to make up the difference with dollars brought in by membership dues.



Photo by John Caiati 6/05

Members have the option to **join at one of three different levels**. Each level helps support additional conservation and community services. If you care deeply about these programs or you don't have the time to volunteer, joining at a higher level is a way for you to show your support. You can still join at the traditional \$10 per year or you can help fund these important expanded services by joining at a higher level.

**\$10 - Basic Membership Level.** This membership level covers the cost of the basic services the PLIA has provided for the past 15 years.

- ◆ Water Quality Testing Program
- ◆ PLIA Annual Meeting
- ◆ PawPrints Newsletter
- ◆ PLIA mailings
- ◆ Road & Island Cleanup Supplies
- ◆ PLIA contribution to NH Lakes Association, and other conservation affiliations

**\$25 - Community Membership Level.** This membership level, in addition, supports kids, educational and community programs.

- ◆ Pawtuckaway Kids Programs
- ◆ Community Events (ie. Campfire Night)
- ◆ Pawtuckawaylake.com Web Site
- ◆ Boating Safety Programs

**\$50 - Conservation Membership Level** This membership level, in addition, helps fund the environmental and conservation initiatives that are protecting our lake for future generations.

- ◆ Lake Host Exotic Species Prevention Programs
- ◆ Weed Watchers Program
- ◆ Conservation Programs (ie. non-point source pollution/run off grant)
- ◆ Environmental Studies (ie. UNH Alewife Study) National/State/Local matching grants

*Please invest in the future of Pawtuckaway Lake by becoming a member today!*

Mail your check to: PLIA, PO Box 30, Raymond, NH 03077

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

*I have enclosed a check for:*

- \$10** Basic Membership Level
- \$25** Community Membership Level
- \$50** Conservation Membership Level

*Please check your preference for receiving Pawprints:*

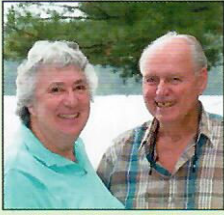
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- Printed** copy - US Mail

*Thank you for your support!*



## PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE

## History Project



Dwight and Ellie

In 2006 and 2007 Jeff Gurrier created the **Pawtuckaway Lake History Project**. The mission of the History Project was to interview long-term residents of the lake and capture their memories of how the lake and its community have developed and changed over time. The following is an excerpt from Dwight Crow's interview with Jeff. Dwight's family bought a camp on Pawtuckaway Lake in 1928. Dwight spent his summers playing on the lake and has since moved here full time. Dwight and Ellie Crow have continued to stay very active with the PLIA and the water testing program. The entire interview, and many others can be read online at [www.pawtuckawaylake.com](http://www.pawtuckawaylake.com).

## What did you do for fun as a boy?

Every time we came up I would go to Gove's store. It was the greatest thing on Saturday morning to hike up through the grove to the store to stock up on gasoline and penny candy. By walking along the shore and going to the store, **we knew everyone on the lake**. We'd stop along the way and play with the other kids. The Thurston's had twins. My older sister who lives in Tennessee now, was friends with the Thurston twins. Everybody called them "Brother and Sister", I don't even remember their actual names. We used to play in Fred Gove's barn too. We'd help him hay and play up in his hay loft.

I had a rowboat and later I had a motor for it. I also had a canoe. We did a lot of exploring. I knew all of Fundy and all of Doloff Pond. I canoed mostly. We had outboard motors starting in the early 1940's. I had a 7½ hp Evinrude that was built for salt water; it was all bronze. It took dad and I to put it on the boat it was so heavy. We had a dory, a tight lap strake dory that two people could row. We had more fun with two kids rowing at the same time. Then dad got the motor. I had **10 cents to buy a gallon of gas** each week. I'd make that last all weekend.

**We used to cranberry** back in Burnham's Marsh. When they would drain the water you could go back and pick the cranberries, they were beautiful cranberries. We would virtually fill the canoe with them. Then the State built a berm on either end of the Marsh to keep the water level up for the wildlife, which killed the cranberries. There are still good blueberries back there but they are hard to get to.

*We'd get up to the lake about 9:00 pm on Friday night. It was dark but Dad and I would grab the canoe and go over to the ice house and break off a chunk of ice and throw it in the canoe.*

We had some neighborhood cookouts, no fancy entertainment. In the early years people used the lake for recreation. There were some card parties. In the evening the kids played a lot of games. We played a card game named "Flinch". We played "Sardines" a lot. You'd send one kid out to hide, give them 10 minutes to get hidden. The other kids would then head out to try to find them. You didn't hunt in a pack, everyone had to go their separate ways. There weren't

any flashlights so you had to feel your way through the woods. When you found the person, you crawled into their hiding spot with them, that's why they called it Sardines. The last person to find them had to hide the next time. You could be there awhile swatting mosquitoes. It usually lasted about two turns before kids started to sneak into their houses and leave someone out there.

About 1956, right after Ellie and I got married, Don Holden who had the seaplane also got a little yellowjacket runabout. I think he had a 25hp motor on it. He taught everybody on this side of the lake how to water ski. In 1960 my brother-in-



Kit built Luger Runabout

law and I built a fiberglass ski boat, a **Luger**. It was 16 feet long with a 40 hp Evinrude motor on it. We skied all the time, we had a ball. It was a kit, it "goes together in one enjoyable evening" at least that is what the ad said. It was more like six months of hard work and one enjoy-

able evening! We put it together in my barn over in Stratham during the winter. It was tough working with fiberglass during the winter.

When I was a kid we would spend all of our time out on the water playing, fishing and skiing. By the time my kids were mid-teens **we wouldn't take them skiing on the lake on weekends** because it was too dangerous. There were too many day trippers boating. If you have a young skier fall because they are still a novice there are too many boats on top of each other to feel safe. The development of Fundy boat launch, the parking lot, the paving, the bathrooms, have created a whole lot of new usage. It has increased boating, hiking and hunting.

It was interesting in the 1970's during the Arab oil embargo. All of the boating activity dropped off substantially. That's when sailboats really became popular on the lake. Before that you didn't really see sailboats here. Back in the 1940's there were three or four ice boats on the lake. They were something to watch, they go really fast. They didn't last very long. I guess that's because we haven't had too many years of open ice. Once you get snow on the ice the ice boats don't go very well.