

SPRING 2010 PawPrints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association



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A Call To Action!

Neighbors and friends of Pawtuckaway,

Have you heard the latest about what is happening to your lake?

Are you concerned about . . .

The clear-cutting of trees right up to the shoreline that has taken place at a handful of properties around the lake? In 2008 the legislature revised the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act to have stricter rules. **Do you know what the law says?**

Are you concerned about . . .

The number of fishing tournaments on the lake? This year the Department of Fish and Game has licensed tournaments on May 2nd and 8th, June 19th, two on July 10th, July 11th and 24th, August 7th, 14th, 22nd and 28th, September 11th, 12th, 18th, 25th, October 2nd and 3rd. **That's seventeen tournaments this year!**

Are you concerned that . . .

As of last year, sixty-eight New Hampshire lakes have been infected with exotic milfoil, including Northwood Lake which is just ten miles from Pawtuckaway! According to a University of New Hampshire study, those who live on lakes could see property values drop as much as 16 percent if milfoil isn't treated. The most effective way to combat milfoil is treatment with a systemic herbicide. **Do you want to swim in a herbicide?**

Have you ever wondered . . .

Why we often see greenish stringy algae in August? Can you tell the difference between toxic cyanobacteria and the more benign forms of algae? **Is there anything you can do to promote the health of Pawtuckaway?**

Are you concerned about . . .

The way the Town of Nottingham is managing its most valuable resource? **Who can you go to in town government to voice your concerns about what is happening here on the lake?**

If you are concerned about Pawtuckaway, so are we!

The Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association is the only organization in Nottingham which is solely concerned with protecting your lake. We hold an Annual Meeting each year so that friends of the lake can voice their concerns and get some answers. Is there anything you have to do on June 12th that is more important than making your voice heard?

ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, June 12, 2010
 9am-12 noon
 Nottingham School**



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.

President:	Tom Duffy
Treasurer:	Donna King
Secretary:	Volunteer Here!
Lake Hosts:	Donna Danis
Water Testing:	Steve Donahue
Weed Watchers:	Steve Soreff Peggy Tucker
Pawprints/Web:	Karen Batchelder
Fisheries:	John White
PLAC:	Jack Caldon

To join the PLIA email notification list or if you are on the list and have changed your email address please send your email address mickmokos@comcast.net. This list is for PLIA use ONLY. We send out notices regarding upcoming meetings, events, etc. You must be a paid member.



President's Message

Pawtuckaway has an early spring ... a full lake ... and a full agenda for the PLIA!

Donna Danis has taken on the job of **Lake Host** at the boat ramps, coordinating volunteers and some paid "boat checkers" who work hard from sunup to sunset to protect our lake from choking, invasive weeds. Last year we had 4 "saves" of bad weeds found on boats coming into Pawtuckaway! Our state funding was cut and we need to double our volunteer numbers this year. We are thankful that the Town of Nottingham voted to contribute \$4000 again to the program.

We are fighting the good fight and your generous membership support at the \$25 and \$50 levels is a HUGE help in supporting this program! Thank you for caring! As you have already noticed, to conserve funds, this issue of Pawprints is printed in black and white.

Thanks to **Donna King** who replaces me as **Treasurer** of the PLIA. There are well over a dozen volunteer tasks performed by the PLIA to sustain our activities. If you enjoy spending time on Pawtuckaway, please become active in the PLIA.

We hope many members will see this list at the Annual Meeting and sign up for one of the groups. **Many hands make short work!** Everything from road/island cleanup, communications, mailings, to more advanced skills like grant writing, Accounting/reporting for existing grants like Lake Host, as well as press and government relations. Can you write a few words? A story? All levels of participation are needed. We are growing stronger, but need everyone to help in some way.

See you at the meeting June 12th!

Tom Duffy

Annual 4th of July Boat Parade

Join in on the fun and 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 Sunday, 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 email: georgev@gmail.com.



Lake Host Update

by Donna Danis

On four occasions, you came very close to having your property value reduced by 16%.

The Lake Host Program had another successful year in 2009 despite the fact that we came very close to exotic weed infestation. Thanks to a dedicated team of Hosts, we had **FOUR SAVES** last summer: one Fanwort, two variable milfoil and one Eurasian milfoil. But here's why you should still be concerned:

Now more than ever our knowledge, skill, devotion and perseverance are needed to protect our lake!

- According to NH DES, the presence of exotic milfoil on an average-sized New Hampshire lake would reduce shoreline property values of an average home by approximately 16%.
- More than 70 water bodies in New Hampshire are infested with exotic aquatic plants, including Northwood Lake and Cobbetts Pond in Windham.
- We had more saves last year than any other year. That means the threat is growing.
- **Federal funding for this program has been suspended.**
- In 2008, we received \$6,000 in funding for this program from NH Lakes. In 2009, we received \$3,000. For 2010, we are receiving \$2,500. Notice the trend?

Thankfully, voters at the Nottingham Town Meeting see the value and importance of this program and once again overwhelmingly passed a Warrant Article requesting the Town to contribute an additional \$4,000 in funding. However, to continue receiving NH Lakes funding, we must match their contribution with a minimum of a 50% match in volunteer hours. And unfortunately, **our volunteer hours dropped from 553 in 2008 to 165 in 2009.** We have to do better.

500

So here's my challenge – let's get our volunteer hours back up to 500 this summer. 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.** You can do it alone – you can do it with a friend. You can bring your son or daughter or grandkids to start teaching them about the importance of protecting our lake. Please contact me at ddanis@comcast.net or 603-895-3555 to learn how easy it is. We will be tracking our hours on the website so be sure to log on to www.pawtuckawaylake.com!

The Weed Watch Report

Steve Soreff, Weed Watch Co-captain

Weed Watch Warriors W3 marked the 2009 season with training, new t-shirts, consolidation, one major expedition and numerous surveys and removal missions by Therese Thompson. Amy Smugala from the Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) provided us with an intern who conducted a weed training program. At that training the new team tee shirts became available (see picture) and areas of the lake were assigned for weed patrol for the season. Each Weed Watcher checks his or her section at least once a month to spot and report any new infestations.

There was one major expedition on Aug. 7, 2009. At 08:35 hours, the flagship of the Weed Watchers sallied forth from the Dolloff Yacht Club under Captain Gary with a crew of Joe from New York and Steve toward White's Grove. The Kotowski's and Lee Barlett had reported Phragmites activities there. They had



Weed Watchers in their new 'fluorescent green' t-shirts. Hard to miss on the lake . . . difficult to see in Black and white!!

both noted Phragmites coming through a rip in the benthic barrier covering that had been placed by Amy's DES crew on Dec. 3, 2008. Arriving at the site the crew confirmed their observations, and attacked the infestation. They removed all the Phragmites. The weeds

are now black bagged. In the words of Borak, 'great success'. During the late Fall of 2009 the DES crew repaired the rip.

In addition to the many patrols by the Weed Watchers during the summer of 2009, Therese Thompson did yeoman service by checking and removing small areas of Phragmites that she has found along the lake. She also followed up a couple Purple Loosestrife sightings.

For more information on exotic weeds look at http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/frightful_fourteen.pdf

We plan more patrols of our lake's vast shoreline this year and more training in conjunction with the Lake Host Program. To become a Weed Watcher contact Peggy Tucker or Steve Soreff, 895-6120 or e-mail soreffs15@aol.com

Our first training is scheduled for Friday, June 4th from 6-8pm.

Please contact Steve or Peggy for more information.

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. Contact Steve Donahue, Chairman of the Pawtuckaway Lake Committee at sjonthelake@comcast.net for more information.

Membership

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 17 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, educational and community programs.

- Pawtuckaway Kids Programs
- Community Events
- 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

Storm water best management practices prove successful on Tuckaway Shores!

Last year, we reported that through a \$30,000 grant to the Town of Nottingham, 12 sites around the lake had been identified as good candidates for implementing storm water best management practices and low-impact development improvements to help prevent runoff of pollutants into the lake.

In the fall of 2008, the crews from the Town of Nottingham spent two weeks implementing recommendations specific to the Tuckaway Shores Beach area, including constructing rock-lined infiltration trenches to define the road boundary and infiltrate storm water runoff, constructing a stone-lined sediment trap in the roughly triangular area between the paved flume and the roadway, and replacing a paved flume with a densely vegetated water quality swale.



With spring rainfalls well above average, the Tuckaway Shores improvements were put to the test and ultimately proved to be very successful in preventing previously common runoff and washouts. **The project is a great example of how cooperative efforts can make a real difference.**

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:

Emailed PDF file (*Choosing the emailed PDF copy saves the PLIA significant printing and postage costs*)

Printed copy - US Mail

Thank you for your support!