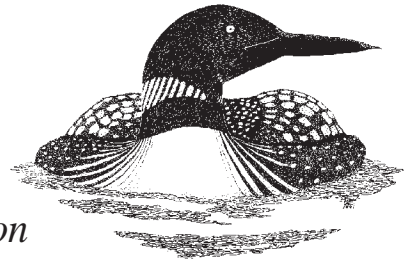


SPRING 2011 Paw Prints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association



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Weed Watchers in their new 'fluorescent green' t-shirts. Difficult to see in black & white, but you won't miss them on the lake . . . guaranteed!!!

President's Message

This year, the Town of Nottingham has again voted to support the Lake Host Program, we are thankful for their support.

Last year 76 members voluntarily paid the higher dues levels! PLIA money, combined with your generous membership contributions, are enormously vital in protecting the lake from outside invasive species like exotic milfoil, phragmites, zebra mussels, purple loosestrife, and the like. Thank you for caring! Take the Lake Host training if you can, it will deepen your appreciation of our backyard paradise.

This year, the main discussion is a proposal from the NHDES to use Pawtuckaway Lake as a source for emergency water to feed the lower Lamprey River in times of drought. This year our guest speaker is Mr. C. Wayne Ives, P.G., Watershed Management Bureau~NHDES. Mr. Ives is the hydrologist heading the proposed emergency summer drawdown measures on Pawtuckaway to supply the Lamprey River fisheries with water. How will this affect our shorelines? Docks? Coves?

Go to www.pawtuckawaylake.com to find the link to the Lamprey River Water Management Plan Report.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.
Tom Duffy

2011 PLIA Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 11th at 9:00 am
Nottingham School**

Come early (8:15 or after) for Coffee and meet your neighbors or hookup with old friends.

**Guest Speaker: Mr. C. Wayne Ives, P.G.
Watershed Management Bureau~NHDES.**

Presentations:

Lake Host Program, Weed Watchers,
Volunteer Water Testing, Fisheries, and more!

Questions?

Call or email tom.duffy@verani.com, 603-303-3039



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!
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 to 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.



Lake Host Update

by Donna Danis

The Lake Host Program had another successful year in 2010 thanks to our paid and volunteer lake hosts. We finished the season with:

“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 and help us meet our match requirement.”

- 945 hours of ramp coverage between May 17 and September 19
- 70 of those hours were volunteer hours
- 2,780 boat inspections
- 22 samples sent to DES
- 3 confirmed invasive: variable milfoil, Eurasian milfoil, curly-leaved pondweed

The Lake Host™ Program is a courtesy boat inspection program implemented by NH LAKES in cooperation with local participating groups to prevent the introduction and spread of exotic aquatic plants, like variable milfoil, from lake to lake. Exotic aquatic plant infestations in lakes and ponds are undesirable because they make recreation in and on the water dangerous and unpleasant, disrupt the ecological balance of these water bodies, reduce shoreline property values, and are difficult and expensive to control.

On Pawtuckaway, this program is funded from two primary sources:

- The Town of Nottingham, at the approval of voters, contributes funding.
- Grant funding through the NH Lakes Association.

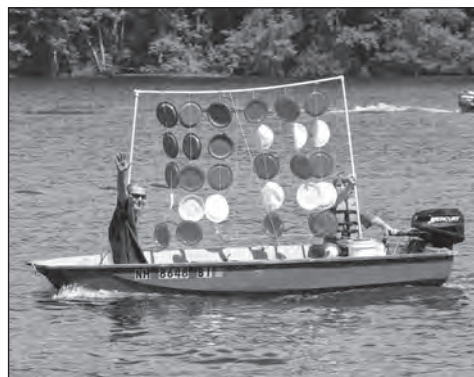
This funding must be matched through volunteer hours. Even if you only have a few hours available, whether morning or afternoon, weekdays, or weekends, you can make a big difference in our lake’s future and help us meet our match requirement. You can do it alone – you can do it with a friend. You can 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.

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 Monday, 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.



The Water Testing Committee Needs You!

by Jim Kelly

The Water Testing Committee was one of the first organized when the PLIA formed, and has been monitoring the water quality of Pawtuckaway ever since. With test results going back over many years, we can spot trends and seek solutions to ongoing problems. Using the data we have collected, the PLIA has successfully applied for grants to help stop pollution from entering Pawtuckaway. Our lake is a fragile resource, and it is up to those of us who live here and who rejoice in its natural beauty to step up as caretakers. If we don't do it, no one else will; as of this writing the New Hampshire House of Representatives has voted to **eliminate the program that provides backup** for local monitoring of lakes throughout the state.

Despite what you might think, the Water Testing Committee does not actually test Pawtuckaway's waters at all. Instead, we gather samples from the seven major tributaries which feed the lake and take two deep water readings; one from the northern part of the lake near White's Grove and one from the southern part of the lake near the island sometimes called Paradise or Triple Island. We ship these samples off to a laboratory where the actual tests are run and the results are compiled and analyzed. Members of the committee meet during the summer, on the second Tuesday of the month at 9am, from May until September at Steve Donahue's house on Jamps Trail to receive water sampling kits and instructions. We then fan out to gather the samples. One team heads out on a boat for the deep water collection as well as measuring the clarity of the water at various depths, an additional indicator of water quality and lake health. The two other teams drive around the lake to visit the rivers and streams which feed into Pawtuckaway. Each of the teams spends roughly an hour to accomplish the work.

Under the peerless leadership of "Commodore" **Steve Donahue**, the current members of the Water Testing Committee are Jim and Pam Kelly, Jonathan Crowell, Will Urban, Rick Morrissey, and Jack Caldon. However, there is a real need for more volunteers to come forward, since not everyone is available for every session. You need not sign on for an entire season of water testing; if all you can manage are one or two sessions, you are certainly welcome! Contact Steve at 895-3846. Water testing is a great way to get to know your neighbors and discover some of the hidden wonders of your lake. And it's fun. We hope to see you this summer!

To find out the latest information on the current health of the lake, based on data collected by the Water Testing Committee, plan on attending the annual meeting on June 11th.

The Weed Watch Report

Steve Soreff and Peggy Tucker, Weed Watch Co-captains

Weed Watch 2010 proved to be one of expansion, innovation, education, and consolidation. We commenced the survey season with a training by Amy Smagula for both Weed Watchers and Lake Hosts, at the home of Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff. The joint session not only advanced our knowledge of exotic weeds but also promoted communication within the lake protection initiatives.

We have continued the plan of assigned sections of the lake waterfront to each Weed Watcher. We added a monthly reporting system which showed the surveys done and their findings. The hours reported for last summer were:

June	July	August	September	Total
46	53	40	18	157

These statistics provide documentation for volunteer efforts and time to supporting agencies. Although many others did Weed Watching during the summer, the following made particularly noteworthy surveying contributions: Lee Bartlett, Lilia DejGuerra, Gayle Kenney, Donna King, Liz & Ed Kotowski, Peter & Janice Lyle, Jacquie Martin, Amy Smagula, Gary St. Pierre, Sharon Symons, Therese Thompson, and Will & Sara Urban.

Rocky Cove continued to present a challenge. The covering placed there by the DES had become torn and tattered and eventually residents in the area removed it. Some *Phragmites* did return at the edges and nearby shore and were eradicated. We will closely monitor this area throughout the season. We regularly observed other areas

of *Phragmites* that have been a concern, and swiftly pulled and dispatched any re-emergences.

The following story indicates a new challenge, a *Purple Loosestrife* infestation on Horse Island, and our rapid response team efforts. The call came in on Friday, July 9, 2010 at 6 PM from

continued on page 4



Tom Duffy, Steve Soreff, Gayle Kenney, Peggy Tucker, and Donna Danis . . . pulling, gathering, and bagging Phragmites.

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.

Weed Watchers continued . . .

Lilia Guerra from Sachs Road. She reported a sighting of *Purple Loosestrife* on the Eastern edge of Horse Island where it opens to the South Channel. We agreed to meet Saturday morning, weather permitting, to see the site. We met in a downpour and I pulled one of the suspicious plants. During the storm I had shelter in a tent type structure that belonged to Dave from Stoneham, MA in Horse Island site # 70.

Peggy Tucker then took the plant sample to Therese Thompson on Sunday morning. They both were checking boats at the Fundy at 4 AM for a fishing tournament Sunday. Therese confirmed our concerns and recommended pulling the plants and removing their heads (the pinkish purple flower on top of it). At 5 PM Sunday, Gary St. Pierre, Peggy Tucker, and Steve Soreff returned to the Horse Island site. First, we cut and bagged all the heads off the now flowering plants, then pulled all of them. It proved to be a localized, but extensive number of *Purple Loosestrife*. Subsequent checks of the area did not show a re-occurrence of them during the rest of the summer. We will be looking again this year.

The following is a great site to learn more about Phragmites:

<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pdf/phau1-powerpoint.pdf>

Mark your calendars and join us for a joint Lake Host and Weed Watchers Training on Saturday, May 28, 2011, from 9 AM -12 noon with Amy Smagula at the home of Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff, 32 Dolloff Dam Road. Call 895-6120 or email soreffs15@aol.com.

This summer we will continue to survey the entire shoreline and pay particular attention to areas infested and eradicated in past summers. We welcome new Weed Watchers and promise training and neat tee shirts.

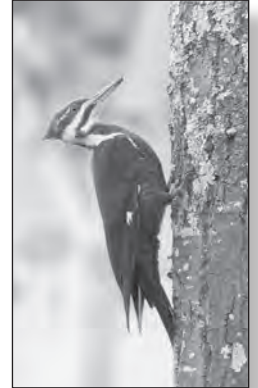
To join contact Steve Soreff at soreffs15@aol.com
or call 895-6120.

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



Pawtuckaway Lake Pileated Woodpecker, approx. 18"

\$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
- Environmental Studies
- 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 future issues of PawPrints:

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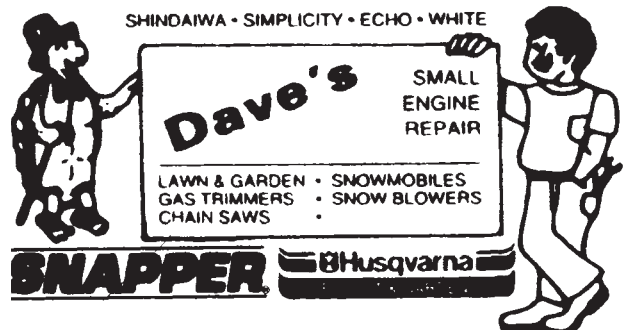


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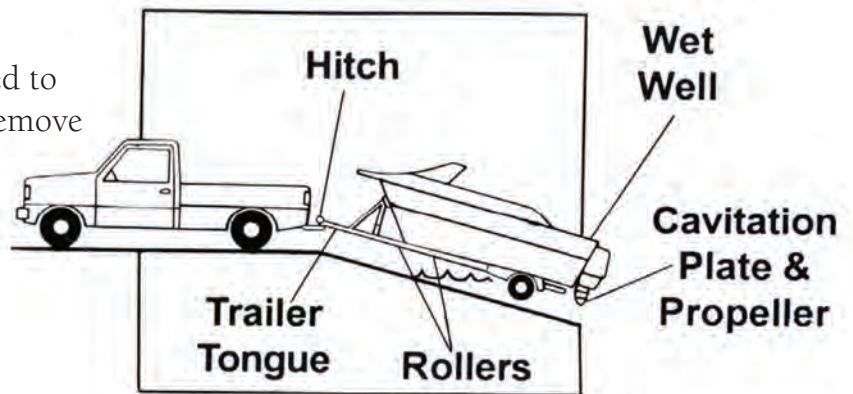
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WEED OUT AQUATIC STOWAWAYS!

Please check the following areas on your watercraft, boat, trailer, and hitch when returning from other lakes. Remember, when friends launch their boats at your launch site, perform a thorough check of their boats as well.

Aquatic Plants are often found attached to the locations in the diagram. Please Remove and Dispose of these plants **AWAY** from the waterbody.



Inspecting and Cleaning Personal Watercraft

Personal watercraft have a jet drive system which requires some extra precautions to avoid spreading harmful aquatic species. A pump pulls water in through an opening under the craft, and the impeller (an internal propeller) forces water out, moving the craft forward. Exotic species can easily get lodged in the jet drive system and get transported from one waterbody to another.

1. After the watercraft has come out of the water, ask the owner of the craft to start and run the engine for a few seconds, to blow out any excess water and vegetation. (Make sure no one is standing directly behind the watercraft!) Explain that the dark, damp enclosed area of the impeller provides an ideal environment for exotic plants to survive and increases their potential to spread to other waterbodies.

2. After the engine has stopped, pull out any plants that are still in the steering nozzle.

3. Don't forget to inspect the trailer and any other sporting equipment for plant fragments.

