

SPRING 2012 PawPrints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association



2012 ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, June 9th
9:00 am**

Nottingham School

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

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.

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.

Annual 4th of July Boat Parade Wednesday, July 10

Meet at the Twin Islands on the north
end of the lake at 10:00am

President's Message

This year, the Town of Nottingham has again voted to support the Lake Host Program with a \$ 4000 contribution. We are again thankful for their support. Last year 76 PLIA 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, zebra mussels, and the like. Take the Lake Host training if you can, it will deepen your appreciation of our backyard paradise.

This year, the main discussion for the meeting will be the Pawtuckaway Lake water Levels - NH DES hearing. At last year's meeting, Wayne Ives from the NH DES presented the Lamprey River Watershed Management Plan. He promised that, prior to any plan's acceptance by the State of NH, there would be a public hearing regarding the Impact on Pawtuckaway Lake Water Levels. **The PUBLIC HEARING is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, at 7 PM, in the gym at the Nottingham Town Hall.** This will be part of a 'public comment period' similar to last year, where comments and concerns are collected. To date, the NH DES has not responded to comments, or questions, but had made some suggestions.

Among the many concerns raised by Pawtuckaway Residents:

- Winter water levels would be at least two feet higher than in the past, which could damage docks and prevent shoreline cleanup.
- Summer water levels could be much lower than normal, making boating unsafe, impacting water quality, and harming loon nests.
- The plan is theoretical, relying on untested computer models to reallocate water for downstream fish habitat and water supply
- Downstream communities (especially Durham) have not implemented mandatory water conservation measures.

Go to www.pawtuckawaylake.com for the link to the Lamprey River document.

See you all at the meeting!

Tom Duffy, President

Wayne Ives, Instream Flow Program Manager for NH DES, provided the following report to the PLIA on May 11 for inclusion in the newsletter:

"DES is working through final edits and responses to comments on the Lamprey Water Management Plan. This includes final discussions with UNH-Durham Water System (UDWS) on their Conservation Plan and Water Use Plan and Durham's Wiswall Dam Management Plan. The Water Use Plan will describe operations of the water withdrawal from Wiswall Reservoir during low flow. The Dam Management Plan will describe how water must pass through the Wiswall facility during flow releases for maintaining instream flow. The revisions to the Water Quality Certification and the sub-plans under the Water Management Plan are expected to be subjects of upcoming, but as yet unscheduled, public meetings in Durham.

HELP PRESERVE OUR LAKE, BECOME A LAKE HOST!

*A few hours, whether morning or
afternoon, weekdays or weekends,
can make a big difference in our
lake's future and help us meet our
match requirement.*

contact Donna Danis at
ddanis@comcast.net
call 603-895-3555

As promised at the last PLIA annual meeting, DES has begun the lake level investigation for the Pawtuckaway Lake annual fall drawdown and spring refill prior to adopting the Lamprey Water Management Plan. The Water Management Plan changes this drawdown from 7 feet to 4.82 feet with options for Dam Bureau to release or retain the difference in late spring based on inflow forecasting. DES will be holding a public hearing this summer as part of the lake level investigation.

These activities have resulted in delaying the adoption of the Water Management Plan (WMP). DES anticipated plan adoption in mid-summer. DES intends to begin provisions for operating the WMP as the plan is finalized."

The Fisheries Committee

has been monitoring fishing activity and issues for years, and continues to stay involved with the state and local personnel responsible for our fisheries resources. The past season provided great fishing for all our aquatic species such as large and small mouth bass, perch, black crappie, hornpout, etc., with low pressure on the fish this winter and spring due to limited and unsafe ice, and low water. As a result, fishing should be great this year! Get out with some kids and have a ball, or enjoy some quiet time for yourself. Either way, good luck and good fishing. Questions or concerns about the fisheries can be directed to **Jon White** at 895-9681; or N.H. Fish and Game at 271-3212.



Weed Watch Report 2011

Submitted by Weed Watch Co-captains Steve Soreff & Peggy Tucker

Weed Watch 2011 showed persistence, commitment, and progress. We began again our survey season with a training by Amy Smagula and Therese Thompson for both Weed Watchers and Lake Hosts at the home of Peggy Tucker and Steve Soreff at 32 Dolloff Dam on Saturday May 28, 2011. 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. In 2010 the hours patrolled from June through September totalled 157 compared to 174 hours for the same duration in 2011, an increase of 10%+!

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 notice-worthy surveying contributions: Lee Bartlett, Ann Breazeale, Lilia De-Juerra, Charles Harcourt, Tom Johnson, Liz & Ed Kotowski, Peter & Janice Lyle, Vic Maslov, Joe Medeiros, Amy Smagula, Gary St. Pierre, Therese Thompson, high school student Stephen Munroe, Will & Sara Urban, and Gayle Williams.

We paid attention to all the areas of the lake where Phragmites have been seen and then through heroic efforts removed by hand. Rocky Cove continued to present a challenge. With the covering gone, we particularly monitored that location. A couple of Phragmites did return and these were eradicated. Several Phragmites were discovered and removed from Log Cabin Island.



Keep an eye out for the Weed Watchers this summer, patrolling the lake in their fluorescent green T-shirts. Also, lend a hand whenever you can!



Pawtuckaway Loons

Submitted by Liz Kotowski

The presence of loons on Pawtuckaway Lake is one of the many joys of living here. We wake to their calls in the night, observe them fishing and preening during the day, and if we're lucky, we get to watch a young chick or two hatch and grow until the fall migration.

Pawtuckaway has two main territories that are defended by pairs of loons. The dividing line is at the north end of the channels. The northern pair tends to nest in the Fundy and the southern pair has nested on many different islands in the south lake, from Loon Cove/Neal's Cove to the Rabbit Island chain between South Channel and Dolloff Dam.

Nesting success is far from guaranteed, and predation is a constant concern. In 2011 the southern pair succeeded with its second nesting attempt and produced one chick right before July 4th. The chick thrived under the watchful eye of its parents and migrated in December. The same pair also succeeded in 2010 with a late July hatch that produced one chick. The northern pair has not been so fortunate, although that pair continue to nest each year and incubate eggs.

Last year's annual loon census on Pawtuckaway Lake counted 5 adult loons on the northern lake, including 1 adult on a nest. We also counted 2 adults and one chick on the southern lake. The extra three-some on the northern lake was probably a group of loons that were not yet of breeding age. Overall for the state, 124 of New Hampshire's lakes were covered by 572 observers. A total of 517 adult loons were tallied, plus 13 immature loons and 91 loon chicks. Last year's chick count was almost 20% higher than in 2010, which was very good news for loon biologists.

Very soon we'll have news about this year's nests on Pawtuckaway. The pairs are together and have been exploring various island locations, so keep an eye out for them when you're on the lake. For more information about loons in New Hampshire, go to www.loon.org.

Membership

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

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 18 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
- Environmental Studies
- National/State/Local matching grants

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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:

- 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!