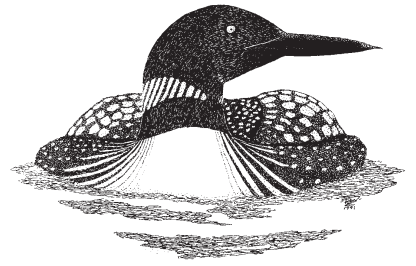


# SPRING 2013 Paw Prints

A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association



## 2013 ANNUAL MEETING

**Saturday, June 15th**

**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 [pdkelly@comcast.net](mailto:pdkelly@comcast.net). This list is for PLIA use ONLY. We send out notices regarding upcoming meetings, events, etc. You must be a paid member.

## **WE NEED EARLY RISERS FOR LAKE HOSTS!**

*There are already 18 fishing tournaments by clubs from MA and NH coming to Pawtuckaway this summer. Usually Lake Hosts will arrive at the launch at 5:30 am to inspect boats. Although fishermen are well intentioned, they can still carry the invasives on their boats from lake to lake. We need more trained volunteers! Please help out.*

contact Donna Danis  
at [ddanis@comcast.net](mailto:ddanis@comcast.net)  
or call 603-895-3555

## President's Message

This year, the Town of Nottingham has again voted to support the Lake Host Program with a \$4000 contribution, and we received \$3250 from the NH Lakes Association. Last year 76 PLIA members voluntarily paid the higher dues levels! These higher member contributions are enormously vital in protecting the lake from outside invasive species like exotic milfoil, zebra mussels, and water chestnut to name just a few. Take the Lake Host training if you can at 11am on June 15, right after the Annual Meeting. It will deepen your appreciation of our backyard paradise. Weed Watchers is meeting on June 8 from 9-11am at Soreff-Tucker's on Dolloff Dam Road with another opportunity for Lake Host training.

The Annual Meeting on June 15 from 9-11am will discuss in detail the Lamprey River Inflow and Winter Drawdown on Pawtuckaway. This winter, we conducted flow gauge tests from two levels: -4.8 feet (DES Target) and approximately -5.5 feet (lower level). By the time you read this, several of us will have already met with the DES folks to analyze the data and see what works best. Since our goal for over 20 years has been to flush phosphorous and other plant/algae nutrients from the lake each year, we remain concerned about the proposed lessened drawdown. The Lamprey Inflow Program is mandated by legislation, but the levels are still debatable. We will report the findings and our strategies at the Annual Meeting.

### **Among the many concerns raised by Pawtuckaway Residents:**

- The lessened flushing of nutrients from Pawtuckaway will cause the lake to age faster (eutrophication).
- Winter water levels would be at least two feet higher than in the past, which could damage docks and prevent shoreline cleanup.
- Downstream communities (especially Durham) have not implemented mandatory water conservation measures.
- Safety issues on ice in winter may cause physical harm to recreation due to hollow ice pockets.

Go to [www.pawtuckawaylake.com](http://www.pawtuckawaylake.com) for the link to our most recent report.

See you all at the meeting!

Tom Duffy, President

## Rain Garden Demonstration Site at Rosborough's

Recently students from Professor Haney's UNH class came to Pawtuckaway to build a rain garden to demonstrate how you can filter runoff and also beautify your yard! The PLIA provided financial support. We should have a do-it-yourself slide show on the website this summer.



## 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.**



**Annual 4th of July Boat Parade  
Thursday, July 4**

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

# Weed Watch Report 2012

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

Weed Watch 2012 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 Road. The joint session not only advanced our knowledge of exotic weeds but also promoted communication within the lake protection initiatives.



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!

We have continued the plan of assigned sections of the lake waterfront to each Weed Watcher. We continue to track the surveys done through a monthly reporting system making note of any and all findings. 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 DeGuerra, 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.

# 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 2012 the southern pair did not succeed, but the northern pair did fledge a chick. This year we are experimenting with a "loon raft" so that the nests won't get flooded, nor will people visiting the islands flush the loons from their nests. If you see a loon on the raft, please stay clear – observe from a distance.



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](http://www.loon.org).

## Water Testing with Captain Steve Donahue

Join us to learn water testing. Our special testing date is June 18, as we go out with a DES biologist. Come and learn about the lake. If there are more than four of us, you'll have to bring a boat to raft up! The dates for testing are as follows: May 21, June 18 (biologist visit), July 23, August 20, and September 17.

# 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 20 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!*