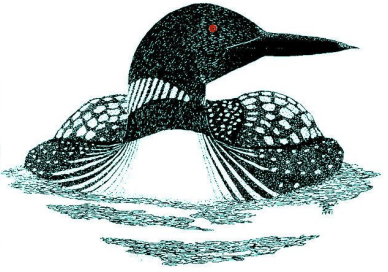


SPRING 2026

# Paw Prints



A publication of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association

PLIA—Protecting Pawtuckaway Since 1940

[www.pawtuckawaylake.com](http://www.pawtuckawaylake.com)

## President's Message *by Tom Duffy*



Uncle Tom needs YOU! As a Member! Now - don't wait. A nonprofit like ours survives on GRANTS, especially from the State Government. The State counts members - like votes - and they see the numbers and effort that 80 volunteers make to improve Pawtuckaway. This year we raised over \$170,000 mostly for milfoil removal, boat inspections, and water testing. We are applying for more, but we need to show more members to win support. **PLEASE JOIN the PLIA!**



### WHO'S ON THE PLIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

- Troy Brown.....Jampsa Trail
- Tom Duffy.....Tuckaway Shores
- Dawn Fernald.....Fernald Drive
- Kim Gable.....Tuckaway Shores
- Shelly Heit.....Cahill Lane
- Pam Kelly.....Sachs Road
- Susan Medeiros.....Eagle Point
- Gary Potavin.....Martha's Way
- Neil Santos.....Shore Drive
- Steve Soreff.....Dolloff Dam Road
- Pete Wawrzonek.....Shore Drive

### Membership—Why Is it So Important?

No matter who we are or what our contribution to the PLIA is, we are equal partners in lake loving and enjoyment. Pawtuckaway is a natural treasure that is worth preserving. It also happens to be our neighborhood, so let's take pride in keeping it clean and safe for recreational use! The PLIA's mission is to do exactly that but we need **YOUR** help, especially when the lake is in trouble. The PLIA is only as strong as its membership. **[Check out p. 4!](#)**

### We Are Happy to Report...

Although milfoil is on the rampage in Pawtuckaway again, voters approved the Town Warrant Article to increase the Invasive Species Fund by \$10,000. We have once more been awarded a grant from NH DES for milfoil eradication. It only covers half the anticipated cost, but we have closed the huge funding gap with help from the Town, the Conservation Commission, and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee, not to mention our own contribution! **[Read all about it on p. 6.](#)**

# Annual Meeting

**NOTE THE NEW TIME**

**Sunday**

**June 14, 2026**

**2:00 - 5:00 PM**



**BUT NOT A NEW PLACE!**

Yes, **Sunday**! Something completely different this year. Thanks again to Dave Richardson, Manager of Pawtuckaway State Park, for donating the Pavilion for our meeting!

Entry to the Park is once again **free of charge** for PLIA attendees. We have invited **everyone interested in Pawtuckaway Lake** to come to our meeting, whether members or not. What better time or place to learn about who we are, what we do, and how we do it?



**AGENDA**

- 2:00 - 2:45 Registration, Membership, Refreshments
- 2:45 - 3:45 Speaker
- 3:45 - 4:00 Business Meeting
- 4:00 - 4:30 Program Reports
- 4:30 - 4:45 Local Hero
- 4:45 - 5:00 Wrap Up

When you get to the entry booth at the State Park, simply say that you are attending the PLIA Annual Meeting and you can drive through. Then continue 1.35 miles down the Park Road until you see a sign on the right. Turn there for the Pavilion parking lot. The map to the left shows how easy it is to find.

Look for maps of the lake at the registration tables showing membership. Are you a member or are you ready to renew your membership? **We hope to see you there!**



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## Annual Meeting Speaker

We are pleased to announce: Nottingham resident, Conservation Commission member, and Center for Wildlife Executive Director Kristen Lamb will offer an interactive presentation on the wildlife and ecosystem of Pawtuckaway Lake. Through storytelling and sharing natural history, Kristen will show how this vibrant habitat and the humans who live here are interconnected. Best of all, she will bring some friends as ambassadors!

## Spotlight on Members

Our members are the machine running this organization. Without their contributions, we cease to exist. Please *thank* these volunteers for their extraordinary service when you see them on the lake!



**Anne Noeth** has been a seasonal resident on Pawtuckaway since 2018. Despite her part-time presence on the lake, she has put in more hours than many full-time residents for

such activities as the Paddle Poker fund raiser and Milfoil Team. To help fight milfoil infestations, Anne provides a lot of support for both search

dives and extractions, not to mention watching for boating traffic and fragments. Hauling heavy mesh bags full of milfoil and silt into her kayak, then emptying them into a garbage bag between her legs, hour after hour, is no picnic. But she is generous with her time.




**Thank you, Anne!**

**Aaron Wojtkowski** does not live on Pawtuckaway, yet he is one of our most valuable volunteers. He first joined the Milfoil Team in 2022 and became trained as a Weed Control Diver in 2023. Since

then, Aaron has consistently answered the call to pull milfoil. And he does this on his free time from his job as Deputy Chief of Police for the Town of Newbury, MA! We have depended on Aaron to help with both routine and emergency extraction dives, especially now that our milfoil crew is understaffed. The Team is stronger because of his excellence, so we invited him to be an honorary member of the PLIA.



**Thank you, Aaron!**



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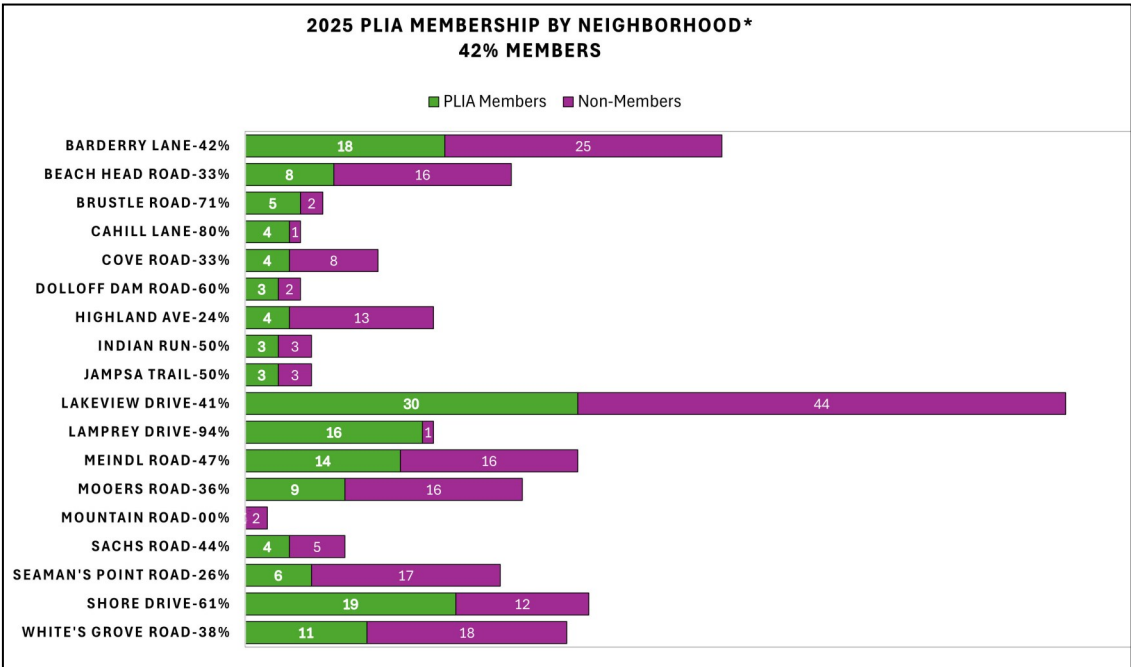
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**Can you find your road on this graph? How are your numbers? Are you in the green or purple section of the bar? How can so few of us be members?**

*\*The designation "neighborhood" includes all roads that have been renamed but used to be part of the named road. They were grouped together in order to save space on this graph.*

## Join Us!

Do you love Pawtuckaway? Do you care about its health and safety? Would you like to help preserve it? Our lake is unique in the State, with its own distinctive assets, problems, and opportunities. And it is **YOUR** neighborhood, after all, so you know it better than anyone!

We are hoping to increase membership in the PLIA, to make sure everyone is included in the work we do. You can be a part of that through a membership donation, joining a committee or program, volunteering, or offering to be on the Board of Directors. The PLIA **NEEDS YOU!** [See p. 7.](#)

We now have a new donation structure - with perks - depending on your level of contribution. Thanks to Troy Brown's generosity, they include discounts to the Mountain Road Trading Post!

- ◆ **MALLARD** \$40 ~ decals
- ◆ **HERON** \$100 ~ decals, 5% off one time use coupon Mountain Road Trading Post (MRTP)
- ◆ **LOON** \$200 ~ decals, hat\*, 10% off one time use coupon MRTP
- ◆ **EAGLE** \$400 and up ~ decals, hat\*, 15% off one time use coupon MRTP

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/pawtuckaway-lake-improvement-associations-membership>

\*Yes, we are also giving away hats as perks! To see what they look like, [see p. 5.](#)

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## Please Welcome our New Lake Host Leadership



At the end of the season last year, our Lake Host Coordinator Bruce Henden stepped down after steering our program through several successful years. Almost immediately, Karen Given stepped up to take over the position. Karen has been an outstanding Lake Host for many years, volunteering her time for regular and last-minute shifts of boat inspections.

Assisting her as Lake Host Manager will be Kathy Jacques, who is our longest-standing Lake Host and was recognized for her tireless work as our Local Hero in 2021.

Kathy was celebrated last year by NH LAKES for her detection and removal of variable milfoil on the trailer of an incoming boat.



**Welcome, Karen and Kathy!**

## Climate Change and Lake Water Quality



Climate change is rapidly altering New Hampshire's lakes by creating warmer water temperatures, shorter winter ice coverage (1–2 weeks less), and more frequent intense storms. These changes are driving increased toxic cyanobacteria blooms (5/28/25 on Pawtuckaway), promoting invasive species growth (milfoil), and causing higher levels of nutrient-rich, polluted runoff, threatening water quality and recreational use. So, bike and paddle more, drive less, or carpool. And plant a rain garden! Be LakeSmart through NH LAKES!

## New Merch!

This year we are offering caps for sale with our favorite logo – one size fits all! Show your support for the PLIA with this hat declaring Pawtuckaway as “Our Little Piece of Paradise”. The color is light blue and they should be available by May, so be on the lookout for announcements with details. The price will be \$20, or you can get one free with a membership donation of \$200 or more. [See p. 4.](#)



*The sponsors appearing throughout this edition of PawPrints are local and reliable boosters of Pawtuckaway Lake and the PLIA. AND they have been recommended by our members! Please show your appreciation for their support by visiting their establishments and using their services.*



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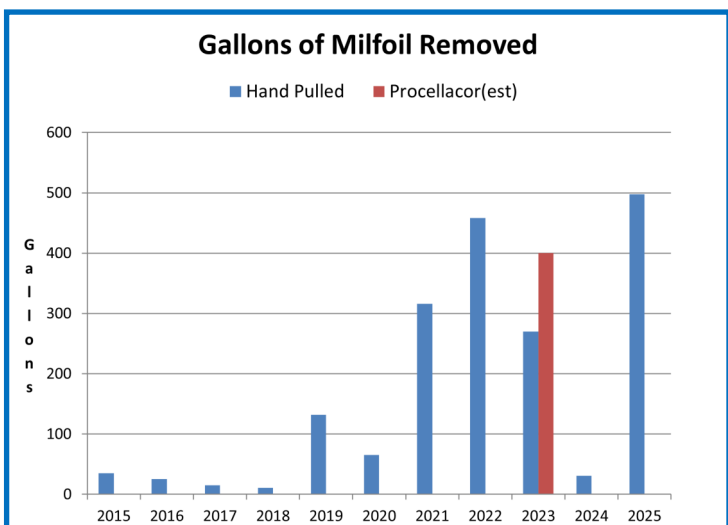
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## Milfoil Team

2025 was a busy summer season for the Milfoil Team. While the areas that were treated in 2023 showed very little milfoil growth, other areas had increasing amounts of milfoil, particularly the North Channel east of the bridge, Neals Cove, and the whole Fundy area north of Log Cabin Island. The Fundy, in particular, is very alarming, given the shallowness of the area, the depth of the silt, the amount of boat traffic coming from the boat launch, and the popularity of that area for fishing.



All of these issues are overwhelming our ability to control milfoil with just our volunteers, so we applied for a grant from NH DES last fall to help with this ever-growing infestation. After doing a survey of the lake, they confirmed our findings and gave us a grant of \$72,337, which is 50% of the estimated cost for ProcellaCOR treatment and diver hand-pulling. For the balance, the PLIA is contributing \$15,000 with the rest coming via grants from the Nottingham Invasive Species Fund, the Nottingham Conservation Commission, and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee. The exact areas to be treated/extracted will be

determined by NH DES in the spring with treatment and diver work in July and August.

## New D.A.S.H. Boat



We are excited to announce that, through the generosity of Weed Control Diver Jamie Burleigh, the PLIA will be taking over the ownership of a pontoon boat that we plan to refit into a Diver Assisted Suction Harvester (DASH). This boat will be used to assist our Weed Control Divers in removing milfoil from dense infestations in the lake. In addition to our own funds, we received a \$500 grant from Bass Pro Shops to help outfit this new boat. When ready, most of the existing equipment from the DASH boat that Jamie previously built will be transferred to this new boat.

We are in need of volunteers to be trained in how to operate the boat and equipment properly, so if you have any time to donate occasionally, please contact our Milfoil Team leader Neil Santos, at [neilsantos@comcast.net](mailto:neilsantos@comcast.net) or call (603) 548-1701.

If you would like to browse all our newsletters from the past, go to:  
<https://pawtuckawaylake.com/pawprints-newsletters/>

# Plan For Some Summer Fun!

## Paddle Poker is Back by Popular Demand

We are aiming for the weekend day of June 27 or 28, so be on the lookout for more information about this fundraiser that is a crowd pleaser!



### Party on the Point

The PLIA will once again be sponsoring a concert across the water to bring our community together for a celebration of our lake and our organization. Mark your calendars - **July 25, 2026 from 5:00 - 8:00 PM!**

### Pawtuckaway Games

Did you miss this fun last year? Teams compete for prizes while testing their skills at games and challenges. Each participating property on the lake offers different timed activities of endurance, chance, or dexterity. Join us on September 12 this year, time and place to be announced!



Whether Pawtuckaway is your playground, refuge, therapist, family home, fishing paradise, or favorite nature preserve, it is yours to enjoy and treasure. Please be a part of its preservation and join or renew your membership! We are now offering perks for membership donations. ([See page 4 for details.](#))

Finding it hard to keep track of whether your membership is current? Our payment platform - Zeffy - is simple to use and involves no fees. In fact, the easiest way to maintain a current membership is to arrange for automatic recurring monthly or annual payments. And – voila! Never wonder about your membership again. Check your options at: <https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/6047bd76-b761-4057-b1c1-428927aee604> or use the QR code in the coupon below.

You can use the coupon itself to join the PLIA or renew your membership, either at Annual Meeting or by mail. We hope to welcome new and returning members!

## PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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