

Pleasant Ponderings

December 2009

Pleasant Lake Association

Deerfield/Northwood, NH

www.pleasantlakenh.org

ANNUAL MEETING

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

June 26th, 2010 @ Deerfield
Town Hall

EAGLES BRING NEW CHALLENGES TO LOONS

As eagles return to NH, there have been frequent accounts of eagle/loon showdowns. Eagle predation of loon eggs and nests is less frequently reported than attacks on chicks, but several attempts of eagles trying to grab loon chicks have been documented recently. Are these recent showdowns and predations a sign of things to come? Indeed. Washington State has over a thousand breeding bald eagles, and they routinely put a big dent in the annual breeding success of a small loon population. This Fall I witnessed our two "teenage" loons ward off an eagle through yodeling and diving.

EAGLE TIDBITS

Wingspan - 72 to 90".

Can fly to an altitude of
10,000 feet.

At level flight they can
achieve speeds of 30-35 mph.

Lifting power - 4 lbs.

Lifespan could be as long as
30 years.



Pleasant Lake fish are tasty -
just ask the eagle!

An Amazing Opportunity to Preserve Our Lake

THE PLA MATCHING FUND

The Lake Host Program is perhaps the most important program we have aimed at preserving the quality of Pleasant Lake. In addition to educating boaters, its primary purpose is to prevent noxious weeds from entering the lake. Once they arrive, the impact will be significant in terms of cost, property values, and more.

The program will be facing some critical issues in the coming year. Mike Farrelly who has lead the program for many years will be resigning. We all owe him a great deal of thanks for his years of service helping protect what we have. As a result of his departure, we are in desperate need of someone to take over the reins. If you are interested, please let us know.

The second issue is that it appears that there will be no federal funds provided to the state to support this program. At best we could see a significant cut in the financial support provided by the state. At worst we could receive no funding at all.

The Moores offer to match contributions up to \$5,000 in the coming year could not come at a better time. Please help to make sure that we go well beyond the \$5,000 limit.

-Tom Brennan, PLA President



Put Your Property On a Low Salt Diet This Winter

Chloride levels in New Hampshire's fresh waters are 100 times more today than they were 50 years ago before salt was used to melt ice on roadways.

Our water resources are being inundated with chloride from many sources. Water runoff from local roadways, parking areas, driveways, walk-ways, salt storage areas, and discharges from water softening systems from regional water suppliers and individual homeowners all contribute to the problem. This creates quite a challenge for reducing salt use and protecting water quality in New Hampshire. Unlike other pollutants, salt cannot be treated or removed from runoff.

Our only option to restore our water quality is to reduce our salt use. The New Hampshire departments of Environmental Services and Transportation are working with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to study chloride levels in certain regions of the state and identify needed reductions to improve water quality. While these organizations will be taking appropriate actions themselves and working with area communities to reduce salt use, each and every property owner should take action to reduce his/her contribution to this problem. For more details, check out: www.nhlakes.org/wtimes111909

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WEED WATCHERS

The PLA participates in the DES Weed Watchers Program, taking a proactive approach to exotic plant control. Weed infestations lead to diminished wildlife habitat, decreased recreational potential, and lowered property values. Volunteers are instructed on how to take a weed survey, what to look for, and who to contact if there is a problem. Anyone can become a Weed Watcher. The only equipment a volunteer will need is a boat, a partner or two, and a nice bright summer day!

For further information contact:
Jim Creighton 463-9351
jcreig2584@metrocast.net

State Wins in Shoreland Protection Act Lawsuit

The first of October the DES approved a settlement between the State and a defendant to resolve violations of the State's shoreland and wetlands laws. The settlement imposes a \$40,000 penalty on the defendant, \$25,000 of which will be paid to the State and \$15,000 of which will be permanently suspended if the defendant does not violate the settlement or State environmental laws again within three years of the entry of the settlement agreement.

In its lawsuit, the State alleged that the defendant violated the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act and State wetlands laws by constructing a retaining wall along Arlington Pond and by constructing a large stone patio, firepit, stairway, and other structures all within the zone protected by the Shoreland Act. In order to resolve the lawsuit, the defendant restored all of the areas that the Department determined were altered without authorization. This included the complete removal of all items that could not be approved.

Copies of the settlement agreement are available upon request. Comments or questions can be directed to Jim Martin at james.martin@des.nh.gov.



A Little More in our Coffer

Oct. 10th the PLA participated in the town-wide yard sale. Through contributions from a few and the help of many, we were able to raise \$100 for our PLA General Fund. It was a last minute decision to set up some tables, but it turned out great. Thanks to Dan Cote for allowing us to set up next to his tables at Commerce Corner, we were able to attract a constant crowd all day. Not a bad profit for things we were going to get rid of anyway. With this success, there's an opportunity to make it an even bigger effort next year!! Thanks to all that helped!



Great to see lots of new sailboats on the lake last summer!

Letter from the Editor

DEAR PLA MEMBERS,

It's almost Christmas and soon the lake will be frozen over. This isn't the time to lull ourselves into winter doldrums and forget the environmental issues of Pleasant Lake. To continue our fight against noxious weeds and other invasive species. Please take a moment to do the following things:



Linda Brennan
Ponderings Editor
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Join the PLA. Membership is from July 1st to the following June 30th. If you have not joined the association in 2009, please write that \$25 check at your earliest convenience. The Ponderings will not be sent to non-paying members.

Give your email address to your Director or the PLA President so that we can notify you of issues on the lake and send you the Ponderings via email.

Support the PLA fund raisers. Right now we have a wonderful "The Art of Preservation" fund raiser going on. This is an opportunity to get a piece of fine art and make a donation to the PLA. We need these funds for supporting weed watcher education and keeping up our general funds in case of a weed infestation that would require treatment for our lake.

Have a wonderful winter.

- Linda, Ponderings Editor

PLA Membership Form

Detach and mail with \$25 annual dues to:

Pleasant Lake Association
Attn: Treasurer
PO Box 53
Deerfield, NH 03037

Name(s) - membership covers entire household

Street

City State Zip

Phone Number (optional)

Email Address (optional)

NH State-wide Lake Host Program had 297 'Saves' in 2009!

Pleasant Lake had 4 questionable weeds pulled from departing or arriving boats by our Lake Hosts. They were identified by the state as non-exotic.

Check out the report at www.nhlakes.org to see how close and how often other lakes near us found exotic weeds by Lake Hosts.

Phosphate-Free in NH

Gov. Lynch signed into law HB 350 July 2009, adding automatic dishwashing detergents to the statewide ban on household cleaning products containing more than trace amounts of phosphorus. Until 2010 when this law takes effect, please choose to protect your lake by purchasing phosphate-free dishwashing detergents!

Need a Gift? Or a Way to preserve your memories?

Check out The Art of Preservation campaign at www.pleasantlakenh.org

Pleasant Lake Association

Relief from Flood Threats

The new culvert is now in place at the dam. The work was done a few weeks ago and to the best of our knowledge went off without a hitch. The change is noticeable on two fronts (a) the section of Gulf Road with no blacktop and (b) the water level appears to be at its lowest level of the past several years. Unless we get significant rainfall in the coming months, this should certainly mitigate any potential ice damage this winter.

LAKE LEVEL DRAW DOWN

Jun 1	(full) 6.3
Jun 26	6.2
Jul 1	6.1
Jul 12	6.0
Jul 19	5.9
Jul 26	5.8
Aug 1	5.7
Aug 8	5.6
Aug 15	5.5
Aug 22	5.4
Sept 1	5.1
Oct 10	All Boards Out

PLA Pot Luck Supper

The PLA pot luck supper was held at the Deerfield Town Hall August 1, 2009 with 29 present. Thanks to Elaine Fregosi for planning the event. Many others including Martha Clark, Bill & Delores Bushnell and Roger Shaw helped with the set up and organizing the event. The first pot luck has held in 1995, so it has been on many people's calendars for years.

Elaine has submitted her resignation as Social Committee Chairman and the Board of Directors would like to thank her for the years of service to the PLA. You will be missed, Elaine.

Pleasant Lake Association

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