

# Pleasant Ponderings

August 2009

Pleasant Lake Association  
Deerfield/Northwood, NH

www.pleasantlakenh.org

## BOAT PARADE

Thanks to all who participated in the boat parade! Hope the observers enjoyed all the boaters' creativity.

Thanks to Dan Cote for taking pictures of each entry, and if you haven't received your picture please contact Tom Brennan (PLA President) or your director.



All PLA contact information is available on page 2.

## MONDAY, SEPT. 7TH - 9AM "WEED AWARENESS DAY"

1. Get the "sound producing device" out of your boat (it is required equipment),
2. Go to the end of your dock at 9:00 a.m., and give a blast on the air horn.
3. Look for weeds in the water along your property line and that of your neighbors.
4. How many can you, your children and your guests identify?
5. Go to the web page to see pictures of the "Frightful Fourteen".

If you have a question regarding a weed, contact your director.

That's all it takes to be a weed watcher!

## JOIN THE PLA!

Send your \$25 (made out to PLA) to your director or the treasurer for your 2009 membership! Save Our Lake!

**Did you know that the PLA is a 501 3C and contributions may be tax deductible?**

## *Pleasant Lake is a Precious Treasure*

### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Pleasant Lake is a precious treasure. Last month a young wooden sail boat builder brought the fruits of his labor, a Penobscot with mahogany on the interior, to Pleasant Lake for its maiden voyage. Apparently he wanted the first outing to be on a clean well cared for lake. People throughout the state and beyond know that we have a gem. The critical issue facing all of us is how to protect it. When our grandchildren drive here to see where we lived, will it look and feel the same? The goal of the Pleasant Lake Association (PLA) is to do everything we can to keep our treasure healthy and clean.

As incoming president of the PLA I am asking for your help in advancing toward this goal. How can you help:

- You can start by joining the PLA. The annual membership is only \$25 and it is tax deductible - we are a 501.3c association.
- Support your director. Each district around the lake has a volunteer that has agreed to represent your district on the board. Find out who your director is and ask what you can do to help.
- Volunteer. There are a number of ways you can help us keep our lake clean and healthy. We can always use more volunteer Lake Hosts. As a volunteer Weed Watcher you could provide a vital role in early detection even if it is just in front of your home or cottage.
- Keep informed & educated. Log onto the PLA web site periodically and see what is going on. There are a number of educational articles posted there. Share the information with your guests. I have found they often provide a great educational tool for our grandchildren.

There are a number of new members on the board or serving as committee chairs this year. Others have served for some time and have a great deal of knowledge and history that will guide us in doing the best job for our lake. Please join me in thanking all of them for giving their time and talents to support all of us.



## *Lake Host Training a Great Success!*

You will be seeing many new faces at the boat ramp this summer. Eighteen lake residents attended a Lake Host Training session on July 7. The training session was led by Andrea LaMoreaux, Educational Director of the NH Lakes Association and Michael Farrelly, coordinator of the Lake Host Program on Pleasant Lake.

This is the 8th year of the Lake Host Program and during this 8 year period there have been two 'saves' (exotic plants discovered) at our boat ramp. Can you imagine your beautiful shoreline invaded by milfoil? If you are interested in becoming a Lake Host, contact Michael Farrelly 463-8861 mfarrelly@mail.plymouth.edu

### PLA Officers

**PRESIDENT**

Tom Brennan - 463-5664  
tfbrennan@metrocast.net

**1ST VP/PONDERINGS EDITOR**

Linda Brennan - 463-5664  
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**2ND VP**

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**RECORDING SECRETARY**

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**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY**

Carol Smiglin - 463-1063  
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**TREASURER**

Jan Cote - 463-8869  
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**CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

Stan Clark - 463-7100  
mapanh@yahoo.com

### Committee Chairs

**ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE**

Joe Farrelly - 225-9437  
akfjrf@webtv.net

**WEBMASTER**

Claudia Spangler - 463-7046  
crspan@metrocast.net

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE**

Elaine Fregosi  
463-7855 or 228-8027

### PLA Directors

**DAM DISTRICT (#2-16)**

Claudia Spangler - 463-7046  
crspan@metrocast.net

**VEASEY DISTRICT (#17-30)**

Jeff Karlberg - 978-390-6806  
jkarlberg@verizon.net

**WEST DISTRICT (#31-47)**

Frank Albert - 483-8401

**SOUTH COVE DISTRICT (#48-60)**

Krist Nelson - 463-3010  
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**LOON COVE DISTRICT (#61-80)**

Mike Beaudoin - 463-1025  
Mbeaud2002@yahoo.com

**POUT POINT DISTRICT (#81-104)**

Pat Delorey - 463-7603  
bpdelo@aol.com

**BROAD COVE DISTRICT (#105-125)**

Roger Shaw -  
463-7627 (camp) or 225-2919 (home)  
rogers26@comcast.net

**LEDGES DISTRICT (#126-145)**

Holly Martin - 463-9351  
ghhmartin@metrocast.net

**NORTH DISTRICT (#146-#1)**

James Creighton - 463-9351  
jcreig2584.metrocast.net

#### 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

Thanks to the following Weed Watchers: Krist & Wendy Nelson, Chuck & Nancy Reese, Bob & Patti Harvey, Stan & Martha Clark, Bob & Jackie Blanchard, Andy Partridge, Bill Bushnell and Jim & Sue Creighton.

## Friendships Created & Renewed

### THE PLEASANT LAKE ASSOCIATION (PLA) ANNUAL MEETING

Our PLA annual meeting was great success. If you didn't come this year, please join us next year. See our contacts page for a listing of our new officers and directors that were voted in.

Our guest speakers were from the NH Marine Patrol who gave an enlightening talk on the role that they take in enforcing Lake Safety. The Marine Patrol responds to all complaints and occasionally uses unmarked boat(s) and/or personal watercraft. The worst infraction they see on Pleasant Lake is the violation of safe passage (150' rule) and the greater than headway speed. They gave a useful hint: The standard ski rope is 75' so twice that is the required 150'. Also, you know how long your boat is so estimate how many boat lengths it takes you to maintain safe passage! Additionally they reminded us that water ski observers MUST be 13 years or older and if convicted of operating under the influence, a minimum of a 9 month loss of ALL drivers licenses is incurred!

This year at the meeting, we gave away perennials and only asked for a donation to our Lake Host program. It netted us \$53! Thanks to all that attended and donated!

# A Loon-y Summer!

Andy tells a  
Loony Tale

SUBMITTED BY **ANDY PARTRIDGE**

Yes, the weather has not been the best! Yes, we have been deluged with rain this season. Let's look at it from another perspective - a loon's view! Normally, it takes 27-28 days to incubate the loon's egg(s). Adult loons arrive from the Atlantic Ocean, where they spend the winter, almost the same day the ice goes out. Pleasant Lake is very fortunate as we have a very quiet, secluded, protected nesting site which "our" loons have used in the past. All was well and we had 2 eggs on the nest late in May, 2009. However, the rains of mid June raised the level of the lake significantly, especially for the loons. Their nest became flooded and the eggs became partially submerged. The adult loons tried to add material to raise the nest (they can raise it up to 6 inches!) but as I watched through my binocs, the pickings were slim. Their island nest site just didn't have enough natural vegetation for them to use. At about 7:10PM on Sunday, June 14th, the loon "called" a few times and then swam off into the lake, seeming to abandon the nest and contents. I had been in close contact with the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) and, on Tuesday, the 16th, followed their protocol to mark the eggs with a pencil "X" and return in 24 hours to see if the eggs had been "turned", indicating adult loon presence. After marking the eggs, I added a 5-gallon bucket of leaf litter, twigs, peat, etc., placing the eggs neatly on top of it all. June 17th, no indication of nest use so the eggs were removed, frozen, and are now at the LPC for study. Official nest failure so noted. I added another pail of leaf litter, etc. in the hopes of a re-nest.

By June 28th, the loons were using the "new" nest. On July 1st I saw one egg! It was not until July 15th that I was able to confirm 2 eggs! Assuming the eggs were laid around the end of June, an expected hatching date would be July 24-28. Well - on July 27th, amid loud trumpeting, calling, yodeling etc. from the loons, and, thru my binocs, saw a chick in the nest. Within 2-3 hours, the chick was swimming in the water behind an adult while the second adult was still incubating. Once hatched, the chicks never go back to the nest, instead staying in deeper water to

see "Loons" on page 4



## For Sale

The PLA Directors have approved listing Ads for PLA members (if space available). No services, please.

**2000 L/F** - 1X6 KD pine novelty lumber tongue & groove. Perfect for rustic walls & ceilings. Buy all or portion @ .36 to .46 per L/F. Frank Albert 463-8401 or 370-0245

**2 Bar Stools** - white & natural wood \$25/ea. Great shape. Linda Brennan 463-5664

## Lake Tidbits

From a regulatory viewpoint there is no distinction between a lake and a pond. Both are surface waters of the state and subject to the same water quality standards.

Fertilizers can contaminate surface & groundwater. The phosphorus & nitrogen in fertilizers are nutrients that not only promote grass growth but also promote excess growth of algae in surface waters. This reduces clarity of the water & threatens survival of fish & other aquatic life.

Tow Rope = 75'  
2 X Tow Rope = 150' (The distance a boat and skier needs to be from shore, other boats, docks, etc.)



## Environmental Concerns

Some time ago a home heating oil tank tipped over and spilled gallons of heating oil into Pleasant Lake. How safe is your oil tank? Did you know that not reporting a spill is a felony? A Massachusetts resident learned that their insurance did not cover the cost of environmental clean up - \$180,000 in their case.

Please take the time to read the article enclosed with this issue of the Ponderings. It is a little scary but well worth the time to read.

## Fishing Derby Results

**Trophy Winners:** Tykes - Meredith Partridge, Ben Chisholm, Asa Gulbrandsen. Juniors - Sarah Irving, Zachary Partridge, Paula Dauphinais, Brett Beattie, Kyle Menard, Jacob Decatur. Seniors - Justin Decatur, Tyler Menard, Grant Beattie

**Ribbon Winners:** Juniors - Taylor Brennan, Ella Brennan, Owen Durant, Brett Beattie



# Pleasant Lake Association

## Tips for Lake Living

A protected shoreland is all the land located within 250 feet of the 'reference line' of public waters.

Pump out your septic tank every 3-5 years.

Do not bathe, shampoo, or wash boats, pets or other objects in the lake with soap or phosphorus-containing detergents.

Maintain a buffer zone of natural vegetation along the shore to contain erosion & assimilate nutrients before they reach the lake.

## LOONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

avoid predators such as snapping turtles, raccoons, and the like. Eagles and Osprey's are now a concern and both have been seen flying over Pleasant Lake. Wednesday, July 29th, Pat Delorey called me to tell me a second chick was now swimming near the island. I named them Corky and Bobber due to their inability to dive until about 2 weeks old and because they just "bobbed" about like "corks" as they swam closely behind their parents.

Each day since then, the loon family has been seen in various parts of the lake and their calls at night have been very noticeable. They continue to grow and learn the skills needed to survive in their future. By 11 weeks of age they should be able to fly. Until that time, **boat collisions are the number one cause of loon chick death.** Please be very careful, especially when there is a slight chop on the water!

Is my work done? Heck No! Under the direction of the LPC, I am working on plans to build a natural shelf of flat rock at the nest site so that Pleasant Lake residents and guests will continue to have successful loon nestings year after year. They are such a joy to see, hear, watch and yes, learn from!

## Changes at the Culvert - At Last

The Dam Bureau Engineering & Construction met with Dam Safety to discuss moving forward with at least the culvert replacement this Fall so as to reduce shore land ice damage. The intent is to install a new 4-foot diameter culvert & a new dam headwall. As you may be aware the recently placed 3-foot diameter culvert is too high in elevation to achieve the winter drawdown. The new culvert will not only be larger in diameter but also be placed about 1.3 feet deeper. The DBEC are in the process of completing the wetlands permit for the work. If all goes as planned they will be able to complete the work in October 2009.

*Pleasant Lake Association*

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