# The Laurel Lake Ledger

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## HIGH TAXES SLOW SALES OF CHEAPER SECOND HOMES

By Ralph Jimenez
Boston Globe Staff

The people from away are here. They are swinging in hammocks on the screened porches of summer homes, spending money and swelling the lines at gas pumps and grocery checkouts.

Come fall, when the owners of the 19 percent of the state's residences estimated to be seasonal homes shutter their cottages and camps, they will return home to find a bill for their stay in New Hampshire. With property taxes on waterfront homes running beween 10 percent and 1,000 percent higher than on comparable off-water property, those bills can be tear-jerkers for some.

Yet tax bills of $5,000, $10,000 or more have not deterred people from buying $500,000 or $1 million cottages on lakes such as Squam or Winnipesaukee, say economists and real estate brokers. But smaller tax bills are slowing the sales of more modestly priced property on smaller lakes, said Robert Grott, president of the Lakes Region Board of Realtors.

"Quite often people buy a home for $400,000, tear it down and put up a new home for themselves. It's happened twice on Winnipesaukee in the last six months," Grott said. The kind of people who do that are not terribly troubled by property tax bills, Grott said.

"All the homes are pretty much going to out-of-staters. Our biggest market is affluent retirees who build big houses and only use them in the summer until they retire in them."

Most of the Lakes Region waterfront homes Grott has listed are in the $650,000 to $850,000 range and people wealthy enough to buy them are also wealthy enough not to worry much about property taxes. Those homes, however, are not selling, despite plenty of interest. But neither are less-expensive vacation properties, those in the +$120,000 to $200,000 range that come with annual tax bills ranging from $1,500 to $4,000 or $5,000 depending on local tax rates.

"There are other lakes in this area where you can actually get on the water for the low one-hundred [thousand dollars], but they are not moving any faster," Grott said. "If I knew why, I'd be retired now. But the taxes on some of the homes on those smaller lakes run $2,500 to $3,000, and that's tough on a seasonal property and it does deter sales. Higher interest rates have not hurt us with the expensive homes, but they certainly have on the lower-cost properties."

Many summer properties are selling at bargain prices compared to the boom years in the 1980's. Although assessments on some of Laconia's lakes have changed little since the peak year of 1988, values on others have plummeted, said the city's assessor, Kathryn Temchack.

"I have other areas say on Paugus Bay where properties that were selling in the $300,000 range back in 1988 may be only selling today for $150,000 to $160,000," Temchack said. "There are a couple of other homes I can think of right off the top of my head that have gone from $130,000 to $50,000. Those were cottage-conversion-type things, a cottage colony where somebody rented cabins and then condominiumized them."

As a general rule, New Hampshire's year-round homes lost between 15 percent and 30 percent of their value in the state's real estate crash. Seasonal properties dropped in value 30 percent to 50 percent, said economist Russell Thibeault, whose company, Applied Econometrics, has represented many property owners seeking tax abatements.

"I did all the Governors Island abatement work, and ... the town of Gilford ended up writing $600,000 to $700,000 in refund checks to island residents," Thibeault said. "Over the last couple years, there may be a pattern in New Hampshire of lakefront property being over-assessed not because towns are trying to gouge the flatlanders but because lakefront property has dropped more in value than other types of property in town.

That disproportionate drop in value, like the deep devaluation of mobile homes and condominium units, means higher property tax bills for other residents, said Thibeault and Tempchack.

"Laconia's last revaluation was in 1988, so, yes, we are going to have a shift and some people will see an increase in their tax bill because of it," Temchack said.

Although Grott said he could easily move houses in the $450,000 to $550,000 range if he had them, seasonal property remains a buyer's market. As of late spring, the Laconia region had a 36-month inventory of housing, meaning at current sales rates it would take three years before all the homes currently listed would be sold. In normal years, that inventory is 12 months, Thibeault said. "I don't sense that the market has lit up. One-quarter of Governors Island is for sale," Thibeault said.

The high property tax bills on waterfront properties have also made it much harder for people of modest means to hang on to family cottages and camps. Some had to sell a second home to hang on to their first, Temchack said.

Others sold second homes to keep struggling businesses afloat, Thibeault said. "It's not all doctors and lawyers who own the lake places. It's a guy with 20 plumbers working for him - entrepreneurs and business people, and many of them were hit hard by the recession," Thibeault said.

According to figures compiled by the New Hampshire Association of Realtors, the average Lakes Region home sold for $108,890 in June and stayed on the market for 289 days, nearly three times as long as homes in the southern half of the state. The association, however, does not distinguish between seasonal and year-round properties.

The factors, a lack of appreciation in value and changing lifestyles, are more responsible for slow second-home sales than higher property taxes or mortgage rates, Thibeault said. "The whole investment angle of second-home ownership is missing right now. When that comes back the market will come back. In the 1980s, people were paying 10 percent in property taxes but getting 20 percent annual appreciation, so the cost of ownership was nothing, plus you got use of the place."

"In more instances, both husband and wife are working in order to make a decent income. Who's got the time for a second home? More people may be deciding to head off to Europe for a couple weeks rather than come up to Winnipesaukee to mow the lawn every other week." Thibeault said.

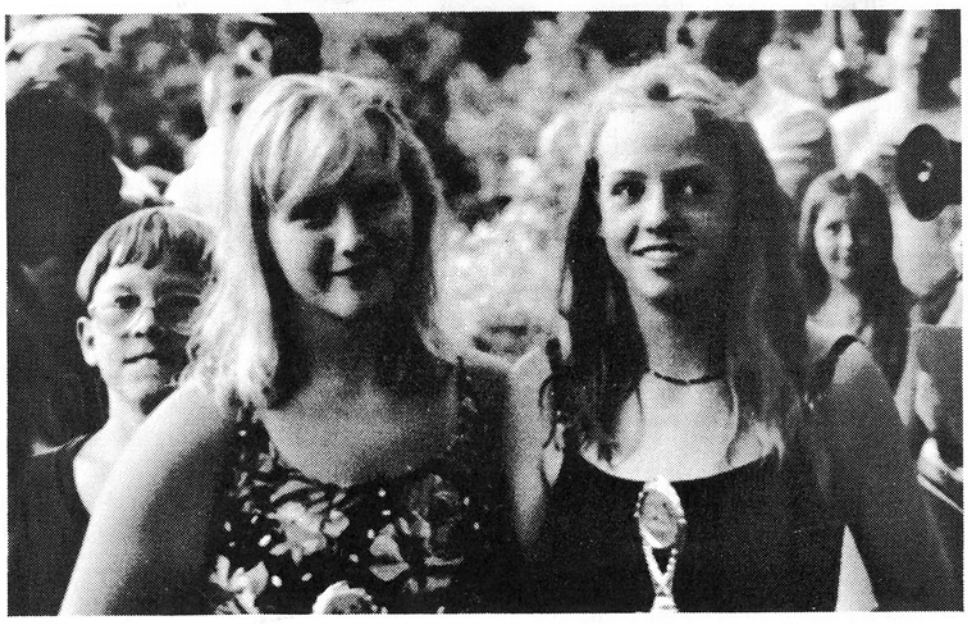
## ANNUAL CANOE RACE CONTINUES TO GROW

BY: Charlie Brackett

The Laurel Lake Association Canoe and Kayak Race was born on Saturday, August 24, 1991. The race proved to be a popular lake event including 30 participants and many spectators around the lake. Two races were held, a 3/4-mile children's race, and a 2½-mile adult race. Every participant received an award, including all the children. Among other awards given were those for the oldest and youngest participants. Over-all trophies were given to the first three canoes to cross the finish line, regardless of class.

Under sunny skies the second Annual Race was held. This was the year the race was moved up to July. A paddleboat race was held with only two boats, but it brought about new interests. Among other additions were a raffle to help raise money for refreshments, and an award for the person offering the most help in organizing the event.

Our third race offered a 5-mile course, twice around the lake, with racing canoes! WOW! Seventy-five participants, including 33 children.The race has grown to a good size. The adult and youth paddleboat races had six boats and raffle donations multiplied. Considering the number of participants and spectators, the race ran smoothly. Although, we had to make a few adjustments. Classes were to be added to the 5-mile course, and the over-all trophies for the 2½-mile race were done away with. This keeps the competition within each individual class.



**Lisa Klockars and Jessica Heglin set a new record in the girl's canoe race while coming in 2nd in the women's division**

**Starting line for 5 mile Expert Canoe Race**

For the first three years, the weather couldn't have been better, but low and behold, our luck ran out! The fourth race was held under cloudy skies, scattered showers, with the threat of thunderstorms. Despite the weather, we had an outstanding 80 participants! Forty-five of which were previous racers. All battled waves from wind and the much too frequent boat traffic. Most stayed dry, except for the unfortunate tippy canoeists. Thunder and lightening made for the quickest raffle yet. Then, it poured.

Our race has become a well-rounded event where paddlers of all abilities and stature compete amongst equals. We offer 16 different classes (more than most larger races). All children registered receive an award. We offer a 5-mile expert race, a 2½-mile novice race, a 3/4-mile children's race, and both adult and youth paddleboat races. There are hot dogs and lemonade for all.

Canoe lessons were made available for the children this year. Eleven boys and girls ranging from ages 6½ - 16 learned a lot in a 3-hour lesson.

Once again we would like to thank all participants, organizers, race officials, spectators, and the Laurel LakeAssociation membership for making our race a big success over the years.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ann Pelkey, Bob White, and Vi Swenor for the use of Sandy Beach as the race site.

**Race results on Page 2**

# ARE THERE TOO MANY BOATS ON OUR LAKE?

By George Graf

On July 3, 1994 the New Hampshire Sunday News featured a by-lined article on the titled subject. This front page story, which totaled about two columns in length, addressed an assignment given the Lakes Management Advisory Committee (LMAC) of the NH Legislature. Basically, the committee is seeking answers to some boating questions such as: How many boats can New Hampshire lakes and ponds hold? Are there too many boats now? Should the State limit their numbers?

These are interesting questions which I am sure some of us have considered on some of our fine week-ends at Laurel Lake. How many water craft are on our lake? On July 6, The Graf family undertook an inventory during a slow cruise around the lake. The water craft were arbitrarily divided into five categories. The divisions were: 1. power, greater than l5HP; 2. power, less than l5HP; 3. sail; 4. rowboats and the miscellaneous group including canoes, kayaks and peddle boats.

The results of our census was:

| | |
|---|---|
| **Power (large)** | **51** |
| **Power (small)** | **11** |
| **Sail** | **31** |
| **Row** | **39** |
| **Misc.** | **69** |
| **Total** | **202** |

This represents the total craft that were visible from a canoe 100 feet from shore. Boat registrations in NH have increased from 77,300 to 81,500 in the past 4 years. It is estimated that 20,000 out-of-state boats use NH lakes each year. What does this magnificent armada on Laurel Lake mean to the LMAC?

The Office of State Planning (OSP) has assigned area requirements for the different type crafts. With these assigned areas a lakes capacity can be calculated. The values in acres are: large boats, 8.8; small boats, 4.3; canoes and row boats, l.5; personal water craft (?), 4.3. A value of 8.8 acres is assigned to skiers since large boats are used for this activity.

Without going into detailed arithmetic, the acreage required for all these craft is 818.1. Laurel Lake has an official surface area of 155 acres and a shoreline of 2.2 miles. This data suggests that the OSP desirable boating area is 5.3 times the lake size. Further, we all know that Sunken Island and the southwestern areas of the lake are excluded from certain types of boating by navigation spars. The available area may be 100 acres or the desirable boating area is 8.2 times the usable area. As the LMAC study continues, the State is putting in more boat launching ramps, and more boats seem to appear on our lakes each year. The NH Lakes Association, of which LLA is a member, is following the activity on this study. We shall follow it too.

# DON'T STEP INTO A BOAT WITHOUT A LIFE JACKET

By Bill Schulz
Associated Press
Published in the 7/13/94 Sentinel New England Midsummer

Life jackets are the most important pieces of gear in your boat, and beginning next year, they must be in all boats.

The law now requires each boat must carry a personal flotation device (PFD) for every person in the boat. But for boats less than 16 feet long, the PFD can be a cushion or other throwable device, such as a life ring.

Beginning in 1995, cushions and life rings won't count. There must be a life vest for every person in every boat.

While the law doesn't require each person in the boat to wear a life vest, statistics show the laws of nature are vicious on those who don't wear them.

Eighty-five percent of those who die in boating accidents were not wearing a life jacket, says Hunt Anderson, chief of boating education for the U.S. Coast Guard in Washington.

If you're not going to wear your life vest, at least stow it where you can get at it easily, not in a plastic bag in the furthest corner of a locked compartment.

It's better to buy a PFD you will wear, Anderson says. read the label. There's a lot of required information about flotation and use on every label.

"You want one that's comfortable. That's the first requirement," Anderson says.. "The second requirement is that the PFD will float you, that it's the appropriate size and flotation for your body size and weight."

You can test your PFD by taking it swimming with you.

Choose the type of life vest that matches your boating.

The minimum is the Type II, the "horse collar" vest that goes around the neck and is attached to the body with a single strap. It's not meant for long hours in rough water and it will not necessarily turn an unconscious person face up in the water.

The next is the Type III flotation aid, which looks more like a vest, or a jacket. It's the most comfortable type of PFD, and allows much freedom of movement for fishing or water skiing.

But it does not necessarily turn an unconscious person face up and isn't meant for rough water or wearing in a fast boat.

The type I, or off-shore life jacket, usually zips onto the body and has several straps to keep the vest from being torn off in an accident. It will turn almost all unconscious victims face up in the water. They come in highly visible colors -- to aid rescuers in finding you.

With today's very fast boats, keeping your life vest on is especially important.

"If you are doing 30 or 40 mph, and you hit something and are thrown out of the boat, if you're wearing a type II, it's just going to come right off your body." Anderson says, "Its just not designed for speed.

The label is required to tell the speed rating of the life vest.

Fishermen, Anderson said, particularly those in fast boats such as today's bass boats which are capable of 60 mph, should go with a Type I.

Many of them however are made with hooks and pockets for lures and gadgets. They're making them a lot more comfortable now," he says.

Water skiers should wear vests with four buckles, Anderson says.

"The idea is that they keep it right tight to your body," he says. "When you're asking a zipper to keep it on (during a fall, you're asking a lot.")

Even the best life vest may not save your life in the water. Hypothermia, or loss of body heat, can kill you even if you're floating comfortable in your PFD.

Stay with your boat if possible. Climb back in or on top of the keel if possible. If not, pull as much of yourself as possible out of the water.

"Water is a much better conductor than air. It will cool your body 25 times quicker than air," Anderson says.

If you can't get out of the water, keep your arms at your sides and your legs together, to protect those parts of your body where heat loss is the greatest. Try to pull your legs up into the fetal polisiton.

If there are two or more of you, huddle together, with children in the center. Children lose heat faster, Anderson says.

## 1994 LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION CANOE & KAYAK RACE RESULTS

### 5-MILE EXPERT RACE

Men's Racing
* 1st Neil LeBlanc/James Carey . . . . . 41:42 *
2nd Ryan Lyesiuk/Nick Lyesiuk . . . . . 43:24
3rd Ed Halpin/Tim Bailey . . . . . 45:10

OC-1 Racing
* 1st Bill Thorp . . . . . 43:36 *
2nd Dave Dugas . . . . . 48:13
3rd John Aufmuth . . . . . 52:05

Recreation
* 1st Dave Lamoureux/Steve Nyman . . . . . 45:22 *
2nd Marc Poulin/William MacDonald . . . . . 47:39
3rd Joe Damiata/Bob Miller . . . . . 49:05
4th Tim Vogel/John Vogel . . . . . 49:41

Kayak
* 1st Paul Pogodzinski . . . . . 46:34 *
2nd Daniel Jackson . . . . . 58:15

### 3/4-MILE CHILDREN'S FUN RACE

Boy's Canoe
* 1st Ryan Flematti/Jeremy Thorp . . . . . 9:53 *
2nd Justin Killeen/Ryan Killeen . . . . . 11:36
3rd Jake Lyman/Nick Desreuisseau . . . . . 11:52
4th Ryan Williams/David Michelson . . . . . 12:23

Girl's Canoe
* 1st Lisa Klockars/Jessica Heglin . . . . . 10:04 *
2nd Jaime Parker/Denise Moore . . . . . 14:02
3rd Hilary Lawrence/Natasha Michelson . . . . . 19:12
4th Kara Stafford/Kristen Stafford . . . . . 22:29

Junior Mixed Canoe
* 1st Timothy Wood/Alana LeClaire . . . . . 13:17 *
2nd Angela Michelson (Adult Assistance) . . . . . 12:03
(James Lawrence . . . . . DNF)

Junior Kayak
1st Cori Dumont . . . . . 11:04
2nd Thomas Dumont . . . . . 15:45

### 2½-MILE NOVICE RACE

Men's Canoe
1st Greg Kashuba/Jeff O'Donnell . . . . . 31:28
2nd Jim Flaherty/Wayne Rigg . . . . . 32:29
3rd Ken Schlierf/Ed Moran . . . . . 32:42
DNF Kirk Mayer/John Delaney . . . . . DNF

Aluminum Canoe
1st John Leary/John Larder . . . . . 29:19

Women's Canoe
* Jolly Scheuhing/Joan Snaith . . . . . 30:29 *
2nd Lisa Klockars/Jessica Heglin . . . . . 31:02

Couple's Canoe
1st Martin Fey/Jamie Swift . . . . . 29:50
2nd Bill Butler/Susan Herritt . . . . . 33:27

Family Canoe
1st Wayne Bartels/Mike Burt . . . . . 30:21
2nd Jason Pryor/David Arcaro . . . . . 32:49
3rd Austin Killeen/Justin Killeen . . . . . 33:11
4th Nicholas Lord/Gary Lord . . . . . 35:02
5th Mary Moran/Jeremy Mohr . . . . . 37:26

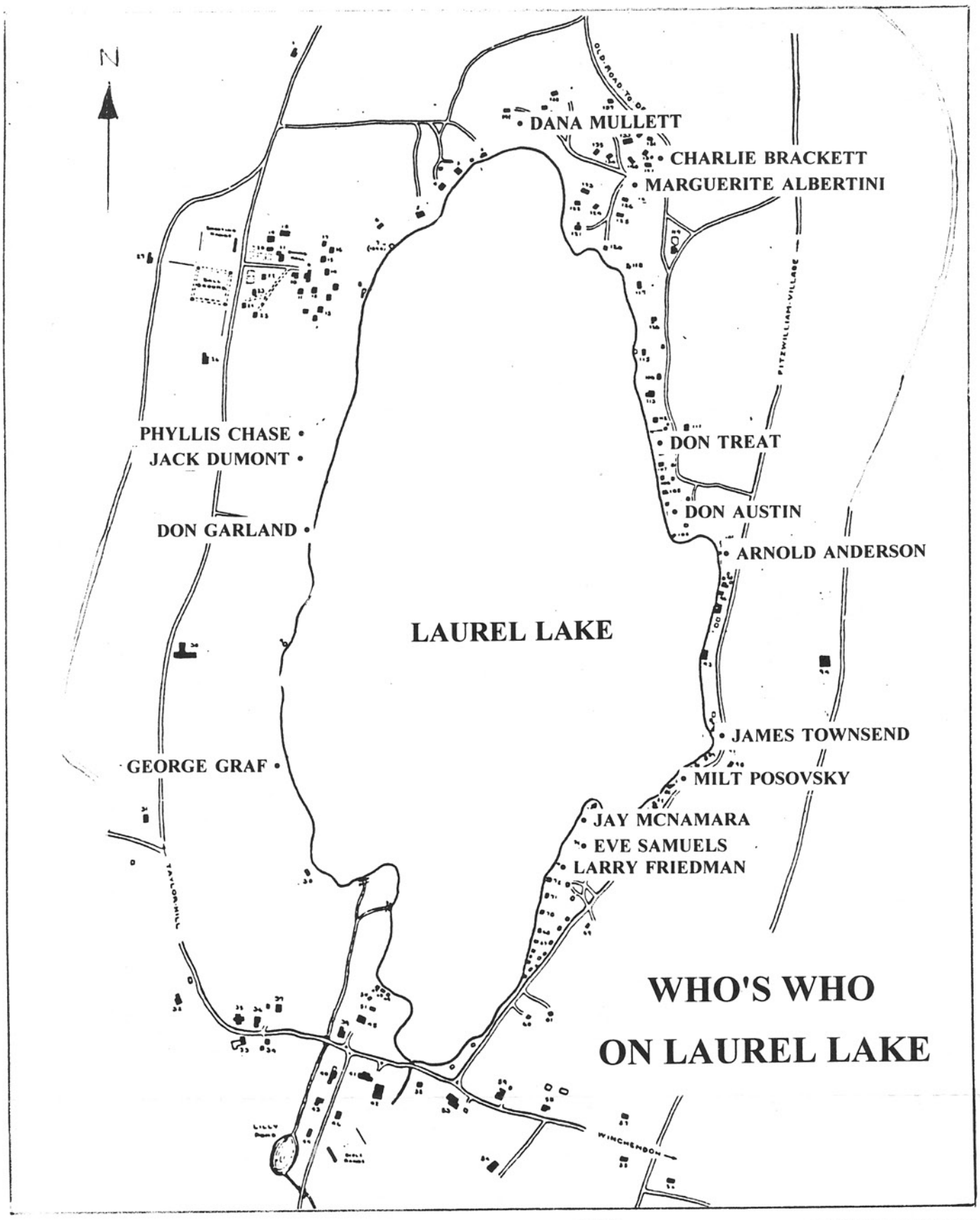
½-Mile Adult Paddleboat
* 1st Tricia LeClaire/Angela Gemelli . . . . . 7:30 *
2nd Randy Hull/Julie Hull . . . . . 9:09
3rd John Dumont/Charley Brackett . . . . . 10:08
4th Betty Wildman/Dick Belber . . . . . 11:03

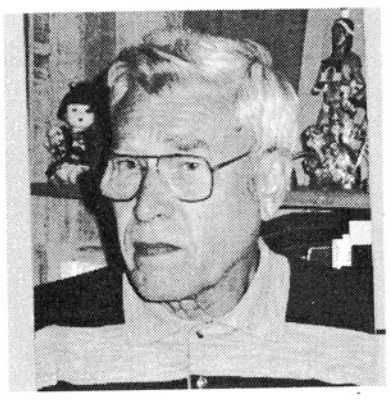
1/4-Mile Children's Paddleboat
1st Jessie White/Nick Coggeshall . . . . . 5:23
2nd Jocelynn White/Ashley Coggeshall . . . . . 5:44
3rd Amanda Heglin/Caitlin Murray . . . . . 8:03

**CANOE RACE M.V.P.: Marguerite Albertini**
**YOUNGEST PARTICIPANT: Kara Stafford Age 7**
**OLD FART'S AWARD: Wayne Rigg Age 60**

*** (new record for that class) ***

Come join us in our 5th anniversary celebration:
Race Date: July 22, 1995
Rain Date: July 23, 1995



## DONALD M. GARLAND
## 364A WEST LAKE ROAD

Donald's ties to Laurel Lake are old and deep. He first discovered the lake in 1941 when he and his wife Phyllis visited the lake house of Barbara (Kendall) and David Leith. David was Donald's first cousin and Barbara was a college roommate of Phyllis. David and Phyllis have now owned a house on the lake for 23 years, and come to the lake during the summer with their four children, Russell, David, Nancy and Sharon (Crampton) and their families. Donald and his wife spend the rest of the year in Beaufort, SC. Among the things he loves about the lake are the sun's light at sunset on the east side of the lake, the quiet mornings and evenings and the cool clear water. Donald was one of the initiators of the annual Labor Day Regatta, has been a former President of the Laurel Lake Association, a former Chairman of the Nominating Committee, and has been active with the NH Water Testing Program. He enjoys swimming and boating, and considers his greatest achievement becoming a physician. Rumor has it that he wants to sell his house and move permanently to Cape Cod.

## LARRY FRIEDMAN
## 86 EAST LAKE ROAD

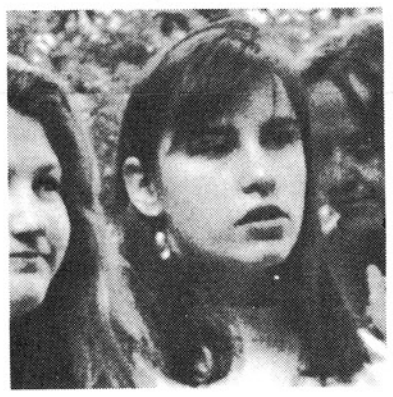
Larry and his family, his wife Marilyn and their children Michael, Mark and Leslie, first came to Laurel Lake in 1984 as guests of their friends the Samuels whom they were neighbors of in Providence, RI. Larry and his family soon became their Laurel Lake neighbors as well, buying the house next to the Samuels' the following year, and they have been trying to get to the lake every weekend from Memorial day to Labor day ever since. Back in Providence, Larry is President of PM Industries, a company that manages several family owned businesses involving construction and woodworking. He is on the board of the Miriam Hospital, the Jewish Federation of RI, the Providence Performing Arts Center and the Jewish Home for the Aged, as well as being a six year member of the Laurel Lake Board and Publisher of the Laurel Lake Ledger. Larry enjoys lying in the sun in his inflated raft, touring the lake in his motorboat, entertaining friends and family, fishing from his dock, and trips to Keene.

## GEORGE L. GRAF
## RR BOX 355
## HOWEVILLE ROAD

George is the only member of his immediate Graf family who has not enjoyed Laurel Lake from infancy. His wife Lilly, a native of Fitzwilliam, and his three children, Karen, Janet and William, all have the benefit of a lifetime of Laurel Lake experiences, as George and his wife have now owned property on the lake for 40 years. He can remember spending Christmas on the lake when it was 20 below and food had to be brought in with snow shoes and a tobogan. Residing the rest of the year in Delaware, George is a member of various Engineering Associations as well as being a six year member of the Laurel Lake Board. He is a prolific contributor of articles to the Laurel Lake Ledger. George is particularly concerned with the lake water quality, and having spent the summer of 1938 working on Lake George in NY as a Sanitary Engineer, he has been able to put past experience to good use in his efforts to "keep the water quality and character of the lake at a high level."

## PHYLLIS CHASE
## 364B WEST LAKE ROAD

For the past 11 years, Phyllis has been coming to Laurel Lake religiously, almost every weekend from May to October. Not far from her permanent residence in Westford, MA, Laurel Lake gives her the opportunity to get "back to nature," and to pursue some of her other favorite activities such as sailing, canoeing, swimming, entertaining friends and hosting family get-togethers. As President of the Laurel Lake Association, Phyllis is concerned with rising taxes and developing a sense of community among the lake's younger residents. A college level instructor of Math and Psychology, Phyllis has two children, David and Bill, and has been active in community service. She has acted as a sponsor for resettling Cambodian and Laotian families, and has served on the boards of, among other organizations, the Methodist Church, the Scouts of America and the Women's Political league. Included in her favorite things to do in the Laurel Lake region are sojourns to the Royalston "Root Beer" Falls and Mount Monadnock, dining out at Henry David's and practicing her swing at Twinkletown miniature golf course.



## EVE SAMUELS
## 84 EAST LAKE ROAD

Eve Samuels came to Laurel Lake in 1980 with her parents and brother. They were all guests of Eve's grandparents the late Emil and Pearl Vaida.

Eve is a graduate of Classical High School in Providence, R. I. She has a B.A. in History from Duke University and currently is a staff assistant at a New York City Advertising Agency.

Eve started as Co-Editor of the Laurel Lake Ledger with this issue. She is also known for naming various sections of the lake such as Lily Pad Heaven and Snapping Turtle Lagoon. When asked why she loves Laurel Lake, Eve replied "It has always been a sort of haven to me, away from work and the hustle and bustle of the city. I've always gone there to relax, have fun, entertain friends, appreciate nature and contemplate life. It's a wonderful place for reflection. Perhaps more than any other place Laurel Lake is where I feel closest to loved ones, family and friends and where I can remember what's most important in life."

Eve loves climbing Gap Mountain, picking blueberries and star gazing.

She is concerned about over building around the lake and that power retailers such as Wal-mart are putting small shopkeepers out of business.

Last year her parents purchased her grandparents' camp. Eve will be a great asset to the Ledger and the Laurel Lake Association.

## DON TREAT
## 203A KEENE AVE.

While a relatively recent member of the Laurel Lake Board (since 1991), Don has been coming to Laurel Lake longer than almost anyone else.
His parents first brought him here in 1926 when he was only one year old, and he has been a summer resident here ever since. As one might guess, the lake holds many special memories and associations for Don. He met his wife Anne at the Lake, and his four children, John, Bruce, Thomas and Robert, are the fourth generations on both sides of their family to come to the lake. Originally born and educated in Michigan, Don has served in the US Army Medical Corps and has worked as a physician in New York and Vermont. He now resides in Keene, and as well as participating in various professional, service and environmental organizations, he leads the water testing committee for the lake. In his free time, he enjoys painting, music and tropical fish, and Don's favorite spot in the area is the view of the Mt. Monadnock from the south end of the lake.

## JAMES W. TOWNSEND
## RFD 1 BOX 310
## EAST LAKE ROAD

James has the distinction of having served on the Board of Laurel Lake since its inception. Residing permanently on the lake with his wife Doris, James' parents purchased a place on the lake a few years before he was born in 1914, and since his birth he has been a member of the Laurel Lake community. Clean water is one of the things James loves most about the lake. He can remember when people pumped their drinking water directly out of the lake, and he's concerned about maintaining its quality and also keeping the lake from becoming overpopulated. James and his wife Doris have a son William, and James enjoys outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, water-skiing and sailing.

## ARNIE ANDERSON
## 26 EAST LAKE ROAD

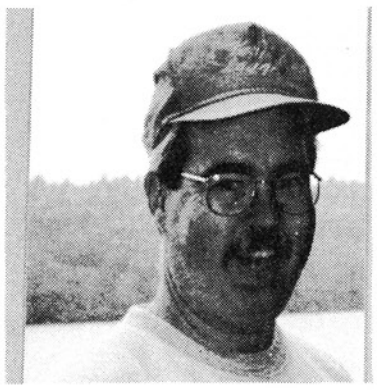
Arnie Anderson grew up in the Winchendon/Fitzwilliam area. He graduated from Murdock High School, then went to Boston University where he got a B.S. in Engineering. He got a Masters at Lehigh University and did post graduate work at Hartford Graduate Center.

Arnie first came to Laurel Lake in 1948 when he rented a cottage from Jim Townsend. Now that he is retired from the Aerospace Industry, Arnie has more time to spend at the lake, which is only a 2 hour car trip from his home in Glastonbury, Connecticut.

Arnie enjoys relaxing and unwinding with his wife Linda, his children; Karen Marie, Kristen and Jennifer and his English Springer Spaniel, Cricket.

His biggest concerns about the lake are water quality and taxes. Unlike most seasonal residents of the lake, Arnie prefers the fall to the summer.

Arnie has been a member of the Laurel Lake Association for about 10 years. He has recently been appointed Chairman of the nominating committee. If you or someone you know wishes to become a member of our board or an officer, please write Arnie at 51 Northview Dr., Glastonbury, Connecticut 06033.



## JAY McNAMARA
## 82 EAST LAKE ROAD

Jay McNamara is probably known mostly for his many lst place finishes in the Laurel Lake Labor Day Regatta. Jay was first introduced to Laurel Lake in 1974 during his courtship of Debbie Dresser, daughter of Gardner and Barbara Dresser. The Dressers have had their camp since the 1930's.

Jay, Debbie and their 2 children, Lillian and Patrick, drive to the lake from their home in East Hartford, Connecticut. The drive takes about 2 hours.

When asked what he enjoys most about Laurel Lake he replied "the 3 S's, Sleeping, Sailing and Swimming".

Jay will be Comodore of the 1995 Laurel Lake Regatta. During his spare time from being a computer operator Jay enjoys biking. He also works with the Cub Scouts and coaches soccer, basketball and baseball.

## MILTON POSOVSKY
## 60 EAST LAKE ROAD

Milt Posovsky is a charter member of the Laurel Lake Association and has been a seasonal resident on the lake for 46 years. Milt and his wife Anne have been traveling from their winter home in San Diego to Laurel Lake for the past 15 summers. They get to Fitzwilliam mid May and return to California in September or October. Milt claims he's crossed the U.S. 46 times.

Milt grew up in Greenfield, MA, graduated Athol High School Class of '38. He then went to Northeastern for 2 years but left to join the Marines. He saw active duty in World War II and the Korean Conflict. After his Military Service Milt ran a group of Super Markets in Massachusetts.

Milt says the lake area has changed very little since he first visited there in 1938 while attending a fourth of July clambake.

Milt is probably most known for his door to door solicitation of Laurel Lake Memberships. Back in the late 1980's Milt single handedly solicited almost every household himself. Taking the time and patience to explain the benefits of the organization. It was due to that effort that the organization grew to its current size. Most people could never see themselves doing this type of work, but Milt genuinely enjoyed meeting his neighbors and talking with them. "Most places are owner occuppied and these people really want to be left alone, but they want to be part of this association and know the other residents, quite a paradox don't you think?," Milt remarks.

Milt involves himself in a lot of organizations, Cathedral of the Pines, Marine Corp. League, VFW, American Legion and Temple Sinai of Worcester.

When asked what his greatest achievement was Milt replied "raising four good children, Yana, Lyn, Mark and Amy.

## DON AUSTIN
## KEENE AVE.

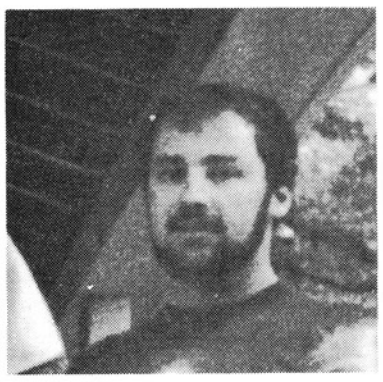
Like many other Laurel Lake residents, Don has been coming to the lake for quite a while, since 1947 to be exact, when his wife's family first introduced him to the lake area. Don and his wife Marion now make their home in Troy where Don is active in the community. A former Accounting Executive, and now an Accounting Professor, Don is a member of the local and state school board, a chairman of the District Boy Scouts and a veteran of both World War II and the Korean War. As a six year member of the Laurel Lake Board, he has helped to redesign the Association's fiscal system, and enjoys Laurel Lake as a tranquil getaway and a place to observe nature.

## JOHN H. DUMONT
## 364B1 WEST LAKE ROAD

Having served on the Laurel Lake Board for ten years, eight of them as Secretary, John has spent the past 13 years summering on the lake with his wife Barbara and their children Corinne and Thomas. He spends countless hours tracking memberships and arranging the family barbecue after the annual meeting. As Director of Telecommunications for Chicopee (MA) Public Schools, John is active in a variety of educational and engineering associations. He is concerned with a few issues involving the lake, namely those of water quality and level, and property taxes, and would like to see the Laurel Lake community address them together. John enjoys sailing and boating, and considers Laurel Lake the most relaxing place he knows.

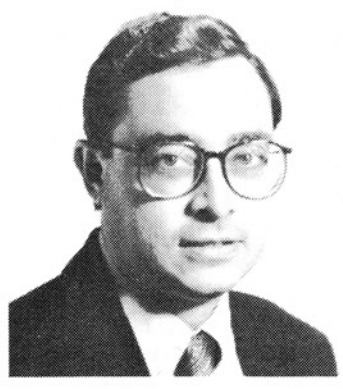
## MARGUERITE M. ALBERTINI
## WHITES GROVE

While Marquerite spends most of her year in sunny Florida, she ventures north to Laurel Lake for her summers. For the past 17 years, Marguerite and her family, her husband Edmund of 46 years and her four children, David, Robert, Judith and Eddie, and her six grandchildren, have enjoyed the lake as a place for special times for family and friends, and for outdoor activities like swimming and walking. A former florist, Marguerite still likes to arrange flowers. Among her other favorite hobbies include crafts, sewing, knitting and miniature golf. She also is known as always being there to help organize the barbecues, solicit memberships and devoting her time to Laurel Lake.



## CHARLEY BRACKETT
## WHITE'S GROVE

As the Laurel Lake Canoe Race founder and chairman, Charley is an active boater. He is a member of several canoe associations, and in recent years has been named the Connecticut Flatwater champion and the New England Downriver champion. An environmental driller, Charley makes his permanent home in Vernon, CT with his wife Christine and their dog Sabrina. His parents have owned a cottage on the lake since 1948 and Charley has been a regular visitor since his birth in 1963. He now comes to the lake year round, although less frequently in the winter. He considers it his place to "escape from the real life world".



## DANA L. MULLET
## WHITE'S GROVE

A Realtor in the Keene area, Dana is serving his first year on the Laurel Lake Board. But, he has been coming to the lake for the past 19 years ever since he first visited it when he was "courting" his wife Laurie, and her mother owned a place on the lake. Now he and his family, including his two teenage children Reid and Ryan, come to the lake every weekend year-round. Dana enjoys the cleanliness and tranquillity of the lake, and among his favorite things to do is read the Boston Globe in his boat in the middle of the lake on Sundays.

# THE LAUREL LAKE WATER TESTING COMMITTEE 1994 REPORT

BY: Don Treat, Chairman

I am sorry to have to report that the results of most of the tests were disappointing and suggest that the quality of Laurel Lake water may be declining quite rapidly. Two tests, the Acid Neutralizing Capacity Test and the Chlorophyll-A test were either stable or showed some improvement, as can be seen in the table below. Tests for the fecal coliform bacteria at North Beach, South Beach, and the Swimming Club revealed acceptable bacterial levels of 10 or fewer per 100 mL. Tests of color, clarity, pH, and total phosphorus all showed deterioration.

The figures in the table are the averages of test results on samples obtained at approximately the same hour, day, location, and depth every June, July, and August since 1989.

Several results deserve further comment. The slight decline in pH, while undesirable, is not alarming unless it should continue. The deterioration in color is probably related to the marked decrease in clarity. Committee members, as observers, were shocked to find they could not see the Secchi disc, on average, below 17½ feet ... that represents a 24 percent reduction in the transparency of the water! Even in June, when clarity has usually been about 25 feet, we could only see down 18 feet. And finally phosphorus, the single most important threat to the lake, showed a dramatic increase over the previous years, and an increase of 300 percent over 1993! The message is clear: too much phosphorus is entering the lake. All property owners within the Laurel Lake watershed, and especially those near the lake, should stop using phosphate-containing soaps or detergents, and should empty their septic tanks on a regular schedule. Waterfront property owners should be especially careful not to use phosphorus containing fertilizers (lime is fine) and to maintain at the water's edge, if possible, a buffer zone of tress and shrubs whose roots will help trap and absorb phosphorus and other nutrients. I sincerely hope there will be better news next year.

My thanks to Ed Mattson, Road Agent for Fitzwilliam, and crew for placing at the public boat landing a new sign which asks boaters to remove all plant material from boats, motors, and trailers before launching. Many thanks also to George Graf and Jim Baldwin for their help. So far we have escaped exotic weed infestation. Let's hope the lake can remain free from that nuisance.

Water Testing Committee Members:
Jim Deyo
Don Garland
George Graf
Barbara Green
Jim Townsend

Laurel Lake Water Quality 1989 - 1994
Six Monitored Parameters

| Parameters | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Color - photometric units<br>N. H. Median - 25 | 9 | 11 | 6 | 9 | 8 | 10 |
| Clarity - Secchi disc<br>N. H. Median - 12 3/4 ft. | 21 | 19 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 17½ |
| pH<br>N. H. Median - 6.6 | 6.36 | 6.50 | 6.61 | 6.52 | 6.6 | 6.43 |
| Acid Neutralizing Capacity mg/L CaCo3<br>N. H. Median - 6.3 | 1.7 | 1.4 | 2.2 | 2.6 | 2.2 | 2.3 |
| Chlorophyll -A mg/m$^3$<br>N. H. Median - 7.27 | 7.71 | 4.21 | 3.34 | 4.82 | 6.54 | 4.5 |
| Total Phosphorus ug/L<br>N. H. Median - 11 | 4 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 9.5 |

# PHOSPHOROUS AND WATER QUALITY

By Barbara Green

Everyone who has been coming to Laurel Lake for 30 or 40 years, or more, probably remembers that the water used to be clearer than it is now. We do not have test results from back then to prove it, but could all of our memories be wrong? As explained below, the factors that cause loss of clarity in lakes suggest that our memories are correct.

In all lakes, plant life increases gradually over thousands of years through a natural aging process known as eutrophication. Lakes age at different rates because of differences in geology, runoff, and watershed characteristics. The aging process is speeded up greatly when people settle around a lake and use it for recreation. If we all understand the factors that contribute to these changes, then we can help to slow the deterioration of Laurel Lake's water quality.

The element, phosphorous, is the most important factor in the aging of New Hampshire's lake and one of the parameters that is measured by the Water Testing committee. Phosphorous is important because it is a "limiting nutrient". This means that it is a necessary nutrient for plant growth and it is in short supply, so any increase in phosphorous causes an increase in the growth rate of algae and other aquatic plants. Phosphorous is not a problem in small quantities, but when lakes are loaded with phosphorous-rich material, an explosion of algae growth can occur.

Where does the excess phosphorous come from? Septic systems are a major source of phosphates which come from soaps, detergents, and human waste. The phosphorous passes right through the septic systems into the soil and then is carried by heavy rain into the lake. Soil erosion also takes phosphorous from the vegetation in the watershed area into the lake. Of course, fertilizers are rich in phosphorous, so gardens and lawns near the lakefront contribute to the problem.

Several environmental bills were passed during the 1994 New Hampshire legislative session that will have an impact on surface water quality. One of the new laws will prohibit the sale of most household cleaning products containing phosphorous. House Bill 279 states that "no household cleaning products except those used in dishwashers shall be distributed, sold or offered for sale in this state, which contain phosphorous compound in concentrations in excess of trace quantity."

An even more expansive law, the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act, became fully effective on July 1, 1994. Originally passed in 1991, the act was amended this year. It establishes a "protected shoreland" that affects the use and development of all land within 250 feet of public waters. Some of the more noteworthy provisions include increased septic systems setbacks, erosion control measures, limits on cutting of woodland buffer areas, and prohibition on spreading fertilizers on lawns within the protected areas. A 1994 provision also authorizes the hiring of a Department of Environmental Services staff person to help implement the act.

Here's what you can do to help protect Laurel Lake. Any activity that reduces the input of phosphorous and sediment erosion into the lake is good. The following is a list of activities than can help reduce phosphorous and sediment inputs. 1. Pump out your septic tank every three to five years, or whenever the sludge level exceeds one third of the tank capacity. 2. Maintain your septic system properly. Be sure your system is designed to handle the load it receives. A leach field should be increased in size whenever the frequency or volume of use increases. 3. Check you leach field for soft or wet areas or septic smells. Replace faulty systems. 4. Do not bathe, shampoo, or wash boats, pets, or other objects in the lake with soap or phosphorous containing detergents. Do not wash automobiles near the lake where the detergent can run into the water. 5. Use low or non-phosphate detergent. Take your clothes to a laundromat. 6. Keep land clearing to a minimum. Revegetate bare areas to minimize erosion to the lake. Roads and paths leading to the lake should be curved to reduce erosion. 7. Maintain a buffer zone of natural vegetation along the shore to contain erosion and assimilate nutrients before they reach the lake. 8. Do not use fertilizer near the lake shore. Natural vegetation along the shore is better for the lake than green, manicured lawn. 9. Do not burn brush or leaves near the shore; the nutrients stay behind to be washed into the lake during the first rain. Do not dump leaves or grass clippings in or near the lake. They also add nutrients to the lake. 10. Do not urinate or defecate in the lake, and don't allow pets to do the same. Animals should not be housed near the lake where the phosphorous in their manure can be washed into the lake by rain. 11. Do not feed ducks or other wildlife; there is plenty of natural food available. 12. Do not use powerful outboard motors in shallow areas. Churning up the nutrient-rich bottom layer can support increased growth of algae.

Source of this information is from publications of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Concord, NH.

# HAVE YOU TAKEN CARE OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM LATELY?

**By George Graf**

Do you wonder each summer, as your cottage is reoccupied, whether the septic tank will work all right. I do. An article on waste disposal systems, I believe in Popular Science, only made me more curious and concerned. As a palliative for my concerns, some Rid-X was added to my system. It was like a security blanket for me. But, was this the cure-all or was it needed?

After a month or so and while on a trip to Concord with lake water samples, I stopped in to discuss septic tanks and their operation with the resident expert at the NH Sub-Surface Systems Bureau. The story I got was reassuring.

The normal septic system generates bacteria and enzymes to digest and process the normal sewage input. The organic, non-fatty waste is reduced and converted into an effluent which a normal leaching system can dispose of. Fats, grease or oils separate out and over time may be digested. Insoluble, non-digestible solids settle-out of the fluid system. Under such circumstances a system ought to be pumped to remove grease and solids every year or two.

What about our cottage? Was the septic tank designed to provide an adequate residence period for waste being discharged into it? Is the system getting grossly over loaded with high cottage occupancy on some week-ends. Is a dishwasher or food disposer connected to the system? These all spell trouble. A conversation with a technical representative of the manufacturer of Rid-X indicated that this product contains bacteria and enzymes which can supplement those naturally produced by the normally functioning septic tank. It would then seem to me that the use of this product is only warranted when you have overloaded or abused your system. Here's what I mean by abuse:

The addition of significant amounts of drain cleaner or Plumbers-Helper or bleach (sodium hypochlorite) is abuse. They destroy the bacteria and the enzymes. The ecosystem can be decimated.

As for pumping, we only use our cottage for a few months each year. This fact means that the solids and fat build-up should be less. Hence, fewer pumpings should be required. However, if your tank is of an old vintage probably smaller than now recommended; and, if your cottage populations is greater, as ours is, pump your tank every 2-4 years.

In closing, a well cared-for-septic tank will treat you well. don't overload it, don't abuse, do pump it regularly. Happy waste handling.

# A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

## PHYLLIS CHASE

Please send your nominations for 5 Board positions and 4 Officers (Pres. , Vice Pres., Sec., Treas.) to Arnold Anderson, Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Barbara Dumont and Jim Baldwin are other members of this committee. Write Arnie at 51 Northview Dr., Glastonbury, CT 06033 before June 15. (Do it now so you won't forget)

Anyone interested in attending the N. H. Lakes Congress to learn more about issues confronting lake home owners and recreationists please contact me. It will be held on a weekend in early June. Write me at 54 Nutting Road, P. O. Box 1487 Westford, MA 01886.

# STRANGLING OUR LAKES

*The following article is from the September 2, 1994 issue of The Wall Street Journal.*

BY: Amity Shlaes

As summer fades into fall, let us pause to consider the dying New England lake. Lake Buel, to be precise - a 200-acre stretch of sparkle in the heart of the Massachusetts Berkshires that's on its way to becoming a smelly marsh.

Lake Buel has a natural enemy, a long ropey weed commonly known as Eurasian milfoil. The lake also has a political strangler, commonly known as the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

This particular battle is a local, even a personal, one. Cottage owners want to drain a few feet of water out of the lake to dry and kill milfoil infesting its edges. The Springfield office of the state's Department of Environmental Protection says that would harm fish, beavers, and other animals in Lake Buel and the river that joins it, the Konkapot.

Milfoil, though, is a national plague. It proliferates like, well, a weed--and makes swimming as appetizing as taking a dip in a bowl of hairy spaghetti. It reached New England a few decades ago; seven years ago it attacked Minnesota's Lake Minnetonka region, and today it is already despoiling Western waters. And state and federal laws written to protect lakes often end up blocking the kind of cleanup Lake Buel's friends long to try.

"We're completely frustrated," says David Logan, who headed the Lake Buel District's efforts at cleanup until recently. His family has been on the lake for years -- a handsome 1933 mahogany Chriscraft bobs among the milfoil strands at his dock. But today he's not optimistic about the lake's future. "There's lots of money for studies but no money for doing things."

**The Original Sin**

Mr. Logan and fellow lakers take an afternoon under the pines to unfold a decade's long story. The original sin, they allow, is man's. For centuries, fertilizer from farms has run off into North American lakes. Man, too, brought the foreign milfoil, although no one knows precisely when or how. Like the more famous zebra mussel, another alien invader, Eurasian milfoil took to North America. Traveling boats spread it from lake to lake--and in the 1970s, to Buel.

The big clog was on. One milfoil plant can grow up to two feet a week. Milfoil has vanquished many an outboard motor, and, reportedly--although not on Lake Buel--several humans who got tangled in its strands and drowned. "We were infested. The middle of Buel was like a hayfield," says David Lewis, who oversees the lake day to day.

Buelers fought back. They raised $47,000 in private funds to clean the lake. In the 1980s, they wrote grant applications, formed special district to fight the pest, and obtained state and federal money to buy a "weed harvesting system," a grant boatlike contraption with teeth that functions something like an underwater lawn mower. Five days a week, 16 weeks a year, Mr. Lewis chugs around the lake mowing weeds and dumping them at a shore site.

Mowing helped in some area--a slalom course for waterskiers marked out with buoys by lakesider Chris Cobb's house attests to the return of the speedboat. But despite a daily yield of around two tons, Mr. Lewis's harvester just can't keep up. So the district lunched a campaign to try another common anti-milfoil weapon, drawing down the lake.

At every step, the Buelers have sought to be environmentally correct. Mr. Lewis buys special "earth-friendly" fuel containing vegetable oils to power his harvester, even though it costs $400 or more a barrel, several times the price of regular diesel. Buelers faithfully compost the harvested milfoil and distribute it around the Berkshires as fertilizer (farmers report it yields great tomatoes).

To obtain approval for their 5-foot draw-down, Buelers hired a consultant to write draft after draft of a 500-page environmental impact report. In an effort to comply with a demanding bit of legislation known as the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Act, they submitted the tome for comment to 27 public agencies, commissions, and groups, including the Springfield office of Massachusetts' Department of Environmental Protection before producing a final document.

The Lake Buel report promised "no net loss" of protected wetlands. It promised to nurture the animals that live on the lake, such as the painted turtle and the muskrat. It even promised to protect animals that *might* live on the lake, although no one has ever observed them here, such as the mink. Document preparation costs mounted to more than $200,000--close to half the cost of the project it proposed implementing.

Yet bureaucratic milfoil tied up Lake Buel. In 1993, one set of environmental bureaucrats gave Lake Buel a thumbs up. But another set--the Department of Environmental Protection's Western Regional Office--charged that the draw-down would violate wetlands law.

Draining the lake, says the department's acting commissioner, Tom Powers, would flood the Konkapot and kill the fish there. "Our concern was that we were going to trade one environmental problem for a worse environmental problem." Among the DEP's worries, listed in a 13-page letter: the future of protected species such as the wood turtle, obstacles to salamander relocation during winter, and "the reproductive needs of the northern pike."

Mr. Logan and lakers who fish see some irony in this. It can be argued that milfoil itself does plenty of "environmental" damage: It takes and blocks oxygen, killing fish. Besides, Mr. Logan says, "it seems like the attitude is the animals have more rights here than the humans." The defeat was a particularly bitter one because it also blocked access to some $250,000 in federal water cleanup funds that had been available for the project.

Other Berkshire lakes have run into similar obstacles. Nearby Lake Pontoosuc was drawn down until the state stepped in during the 1980s and barred the activity. Stockbridge Bowl, a few miles up Route 7 from Lake Buel, would like to try a draw-down to kill its milfoil. But state Fisheries and Wildlife officials have signaled they would block such an effort. The reason: The lake is home to *Pyrgulopsis lustrica*, an endangered snail.

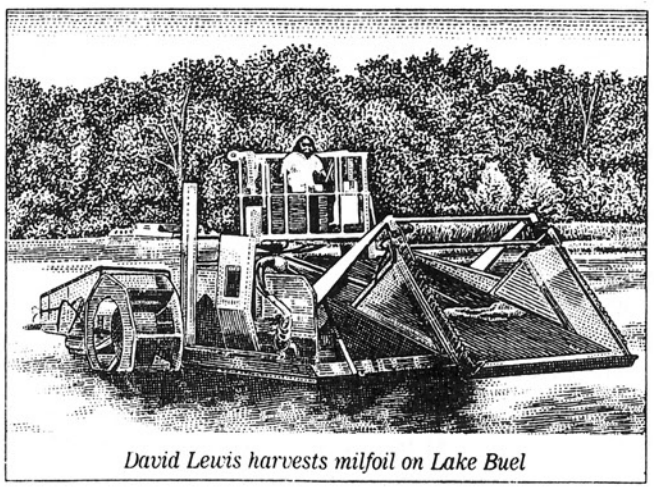
Regulation is so intense that even some environmentalists are complaining. Writing in his newsletter "Lake and Pond Update," environmental consultant Lee Lyman railed gently against the wetlands law: "Whatever nature does is okay, but whatever man does is perceived as destructive." Bill Enser, head of Berkshire EnviroLabs and self-described former Earth Day celebrant, says lake frustrations have made him too angry to call himself an "environmentalist." "Those are people who want to do nothing, even if it's destructive. I'm a developer now."

**A Tiny Weevil**

For New England, where tourism is crucial, the matter is more important than simple green politics. The Berkshire Eagle reported that a study of property values at Cheshire, Mass.'s Hoosac Lake, which suffered a milfoil siege, showed the worth of one lakefront acre dropping an average of $45,000 from $90,000 in three years.

Lakers know that the mere presence or absence of a state or federal law cannot halt as formidable an enemy as milfoil, or solve the phosphorous problem that makes lakes so hospitable to the weed. Still, they say they'd like the freedom to try some of their own projects. Mr. Logan has heard that over in Vermont they're conducting preliminary studies with *E. lecontei,* a tiny (and native) weevil that munches milfoil to death. "I'd just love to go steal a few of those bugs and drop them in this lake," he jokes. Another lakeside activist expresses classic Massachusetts ire: "This is a tea party situation. [Summer home owners] are taxed, but not represented."

Starting out at green stems poking through the water, lakes shift from rebellious to thoughtful. Mr. Logan and others count off the names of New England's endangered lakes. Hoosac in Cheshire. Pontoosuc in Pittsfield and Lanesboro. Onota. Lake Garfield. "Oh," adds one lakesider. "Don't forget Goose Pond." The milfoil started there, just this year.



*David Lewis harvests milfoil on Lake Buel*

*Milfoil*

# MUSSEL MENACE MOVES CLOSER TO NEW HAMPSHIRE

The following article is from UNH News

The universities of New Hampshire and Maine are working together to prevent the spread of an exotic species of mussel into the fresh waters of northern New England.

Natives of Central Europe, Zebra Mussels were inadvertently introduced to the Great Lakes region around 1986. The mussels have caused a great deal of damage in this region by colonizing hard surfaces, which has resulted in clogged water intake pipes, fouled boat hulls, ruined boat engines, and sunken navigation markers. They also render many beaches uninviting, and have threatened a number of native species of shellfish by competing aggressively for the available phytoplankton and by colonizing them. they may also be threatening the food supply of some juvenile finfish.

Since their arrival, probably in the ballast water of transoceanic ships, these diminutive shellfish have expanded their numbers and range rapidly. During the summer of 1993, adult mussels were found in Lake Champlain.

In response to the Zebra Mussel's encroachment on northern New England, UNH Cooperative Extension/Sea Grant (a collaboration between UNH Cooperative Extension and UNH/University of Maine Sea Grant Collegee Program) has established a volunteer monitoring program in the region. Organized by Extension specialists Julia Dahlgren and Jeff Schloss, the program operates at two levels.

At one level, the two organizers are establishing monitoring sites at high risk locales in New Hampshire and Maine. These sites were identified for their chemical and physical characteristics, the amount of boat traffic they support, or a combination of both. The water characteristics are important because Zebra Mussels thrive within certain chemical and physical parameters; boating traffic is a factor because boats that have been in infected waters often have zebra mussels attached to them when they leave those waters. The monitoring sites, located on both lakes and rivers, contain settlement samplers, devices that are inspected regularly for evidence of zebra mussel settlement.

At the other level, Dahlgren and Schloss have mounted an education campaign to inform residents of the mussel menace. Many initial sightings in areas of the country that are already infested were made by informed residents. One of the goals of the educational effort is to encourage people to be on the lookout for zebra mussels.

"While we hope to avoid infestation altogether, we must be ready if the zebra mussels become established," explains Dahlgren. "The information we will gain from our settlement samplers and an informed public will help us determine the timing and degree of infestation or lack thereof. This information will help us assist businesses and communities to be prepared with appropriate controls and responses."

**About the size of a thumbnail, adult zebra mussels colonize hard surfaces. Drawing by Diane Plourde '93.**

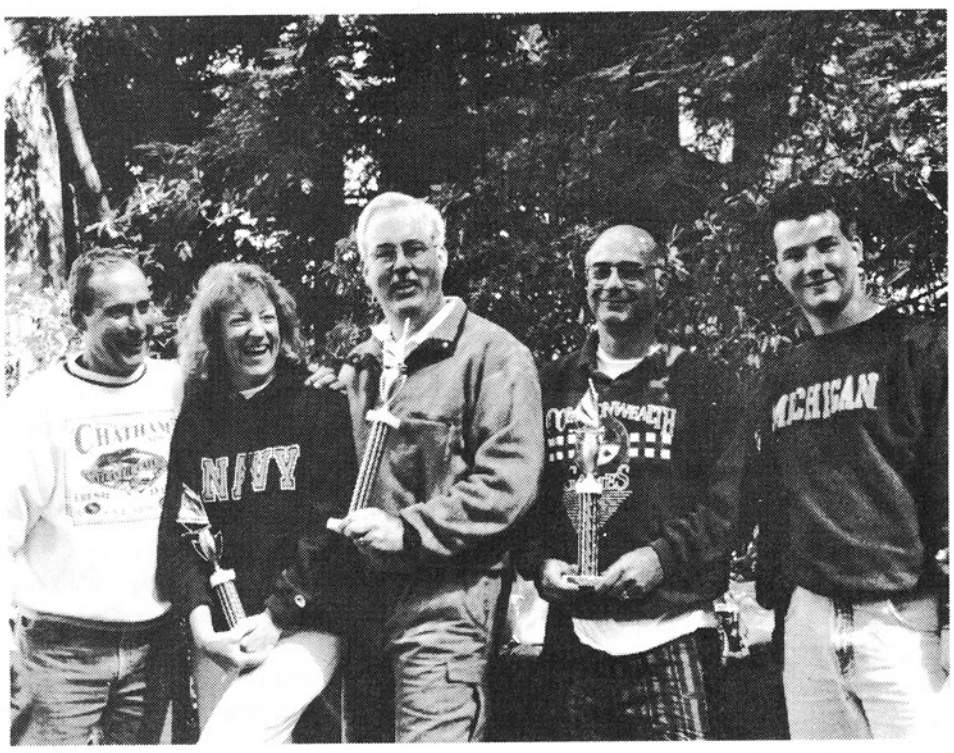
In addition to the volunteer monitoring efforts, Dahlgren and Schloss plan to work with scientists who are doing plankton sampling in the region to check their samples for veligers (Zebra Mussel larvae).

Anyone wishing to learn more about the monitoring efforts, to receive information on the Zebra Mussel, to request a presentation on the subject for their group or organization, or to confirm a sighting should contact Dahlgren at (603) 749-1565.

*Steve Adams, communications coordinator for UNH Sea Grant*

# McNAMERA WINS THIRD STRAIGHT REGATTA

BY: Michael Friedman



From left to right: Past Commodore Rob Prunier, 3rd place Nancy Garland, 1st place Jay McNamara, 2nd place Dr. William Samuels, Commodore Michael Friedman

The day was a perfect scene for the annual Laurel Lake Association Sunfish Regatta. The winds arrived early in the morning and propelled the boats around the course for nearly an hour. For the first time in three years the winds were substantial for the whole race, and it showed in the times of the sailors. For the third straight year Jay McNamera, surviving early competition, blew away the competition to capture the first-place crown. In a strong battle for second place, Dr. Bill Samuels edged out Nancy Garland by a mere five seconds.

The race began at 10 o'clock on September 4 with ten boats in the field. This year the parameters for entry into the regatta were broadened to include "Sunfish" class boats. The wind was gusty at the south end of the lake, where the sailors jockeyed to gain the best start. All the boats stayed behind the starting line for a clean start, but Mark Friedman and Patrick McNamera got caught too far upwind and were stranded in irons for five minutes while the other boats headed towards the first buoy. Bill Samuels gained the first lead from the start, with Nancy Garland and Jay McNamera heading northwest behind him. Steve Proctor, Jack and Tommy Dumont, and Gardner/Dresser formed a second pack close behind the leaders. Then came the pair of Beverly Snow and David Prunier alongside Bill Chase.

It took Nancy Garland only four minutes and fifty seconds to round the first marker. Bill Samuels and Jay McNamera were still in hot pursuit only ten seconds behind. Heading towards the northern end of the cove, the pack of sailors headed northwest directly into the wind. Three minutes after rounding the first marker, Jay McNamera took his first risk of the race changing his tact more south, catching more of the wind. The rest of the pack saw opportunity in this path, and followed the repeat champion with the exception of Bill Samuels, who held his path directly towards the second buoy. Then two minutes later, with Jay McNamera seemingly stretching out a lead, the wind changed and began heading from the north. This favored Bill's strategy and closed the gap between the two leaders. But with a slight adjustment, Jay regained control of the race and passed the second marker at twelve minutes and thirty seconds. He was now twenty seconds ahead of Bill and Nancy while holding a one-minute lead over fourth place Bill Chase. Following Bill Chase were distant Jack and Tommy Dumont and Steve Proctor.

It was now a three dog race, as the leaders again had to tack up wind to round Sunken Island. McNamera reached the beginning of Sunken Island nineteen minutes after starting the race. Nancy Garland was still a full minute behind McNamera, but had created a small distance between herself and Bill Samuels. It took Jay one and a half minutes to round all of Sunken Island. Fifteen seconds later, at the north side of Sunken Island, Nancy hit a rock, and it swung her boat in a spin towards the inside of the shallows. This was the opportunity Bill Samuels needed, and he took advantage of it. He was a minute behind Garland at the start of rounding the island, but he closed that margin to a boat length by the time they both began the down wind run to the finish line. Jay McNamera was already half way to winning his third trophy but the battle began for second.

With a time of twenty nine minutes, Jay McNamera crossed the finish line uncontested. But Samuels and Garland sailed neck and neck for second place. Both pulled up the center boards and let out their sails to gain the needed edge. Slowly, but surely, Bill began to pull away from Nancy. And at the thirty minute, thirty second mark, Dr. Samuels won second place with Nancy only five seconds behind. In fourth place, Bill Chase came in three and a quarter minutes after the leaders. In fifth was Steve Proctor, just ahead of Jack and Tommy Dumont. Gardner Dresser, the eldest of the three generations of this family racing (Jay and Patrick McNamera), finished seventh in thirty-seven minutes and fifteen seconds. Rounding out the pack were Beverly Snow and David Prunier, Mark Friedman, and finally Patrick McNamera.

The day was a success, and I would like to thank everyone who helped me. I am especially grateful to Don Garland, Phyllis Chase, and Rob Prunier and his family for judging buoys. This will be my last year as Commodore of the regatta. I do not know where I will be next year for college, but I am sure it will take me out of New England for Labor Day. Next year, Jay McNamera will be Commodore, to the pleasure of the rest of the racers. We do not know what day the race will be held on next year, but I hope it will be as successful and fun as this year.

**NOTICE**

**1995 Regatta Race date may change so more people can participate. Watch for posted signs.**

# WE MUST STOP ABUSING OUR LAKES

Hank Nichols
Boston Globe

Just north of New London on Route 11 lies one of New Hampshire's little natural germs - Cricenti's Bog. Here, you can pick up a trail guide and learn a lot while enjoying one of the nicest small parks in the state. Wooden walks take you out on to the bog, where you will see a range of rare plants, including pitcher plants yawning at the sun. The walkway has a spring to it, and occasionally you will hear a squishy sound beneath it, a reminder that most of what you stand on is water.

When you get out on the bog and look around, you can see that you are standing on a lake in its final stage. The former lake's outline is clearly visible. Someday the bog may become a meadow or a forest. In time, all of New Hampshire's lakes will fill in the way the one at Cricenti's Bog did; however, if we don't clean up our act, we are going to significantly hasten that day.

Jody Connor probably knows more about lakes than anyone else in the state. He works for the Water Supply and Pollution Control Division of the Department of Environmental Services, where he is director of the state's Limnology Center. Limnologists are to lakes what oceanographers are to the seas.

"Talk to the old-timers," Connor says. I was talking to one just the other day, one who has lived on a lake for 30 or 40 years. he said back then the lake was a lot clearer and the bottom a lot cleaner. Now the bottom is all slimy with green stuff growing on it.

"Our lakes are about 12,000 years old, and I wonder if they have changed more in the last 40 years than they did in the previous 12,000."

"The main concern," Connor says," is phosphorous," a primary source of nutrition for algae and other plant life. Everything needs phosphorous to live. It appears naturally in small quantities and is not a problem in those amounts. But when you start to load lakes and rivers with phosphorous-rich material, you can get explosions of algae and other plant life. This makes the water unattractive to see and unpleasant to smell. It makes river and lake bottoms slippery with slime, and in time it can speed up the filling in process that turned the area in New London from a lake to a bog.

It is no coincidence that the quality of New Hampshire's lake water has declined as lakeside populations have blossomed. We love living around lakes and playing on and in the water, but much of what we do is damaging to those lakes. Connor says a major problem is septic systems. While they are designed to deal with bacteria, phosphorous passes right through them, into the ground and eventually into lakes and rivers. Two-thirds of the phosphorous in septic systems comes from soaps and detergents used around the house.

In addition, soil erosion takes phosphorous from leaves, pine needles, sand and other material and carries it into lakes and rivers. Heavy rains will load phosphorous into lakes. Fertilizers are rich in phosphorous, and those lush green lawns on lakefront property mask a significant environmental problem.

Says Connor: "There are more impermeable areas around the lakes, less of the natural buffer strip." Indeed, we've paved land, built houses and cut down trees and shrubs around our lakes. All of this encourages more runoff directly into the lakes.

We don't have data from 30 or 40 years ago to make valid comparisons, because people did not test for phosphorous back then. "We can only prove it by talking to some of the old-timers who live on the lakes," Connor says.

On July 1 a new shoreline protection act went into effect, regulating activities around lakes, ponds and rivers. The new law created 250 foot buffer strips around lakes where no activities such as junkyards or waste disposal operations will be allowed. There are new setbacks for septic systems based on the kind of soil where the system is to be built. Some systems will have to be set back 150 feet, others may be set less than 75 feet from the water if the soil will tolerate them. You cannot use fertilizers within 150 feet of the water (except for lime, which contains no phosphorous.) All new lots, including those bigger than 5 acres, are now subject to subdivision approval. Any construction around lakes must include erosion control practices.

The law says houses must be set back 50 feet from the water, but local officials have the power to set their own limits. Connor says the state hopes they will use good judgment. Cutting trees will be carefully controlled under the new act: No clear cutting will be allowed. The law, Connor says, requires that a healthy cover of trees, shrubs and ground cover remain in tact.

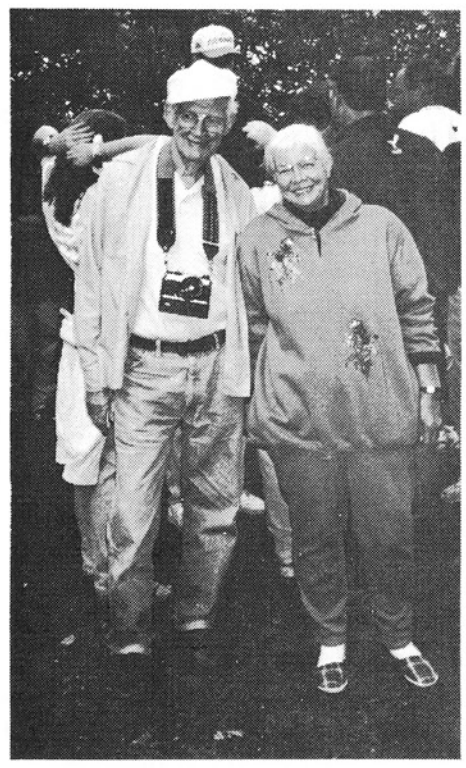
If you live near water and want to protect its quality, Connor offers the following tips: Pump your septic tank every year. Use low phosphate detergents. Establish you own buffer strips along the water by planting bushes and other plants with strong root systems. Do not clear cut. Do not wash your car, dog or self in or near the water unless you can use soaps with little or no phosphorous. And do not be fooled by claims that some soaps or detergents are biodegradable. That has nothing to do with phosphorous.

Phosphorous, Connor says, is the big threat to the eutrophication, or aging, of our lakes.

"People take the lakes for granted," Connor says. "They see lakes like Sunapee and Winnipesaukee and they think the lakes will be around forever. But they won't be. They go through a transformation process. Sooner or later, we are going to loose all our natural lakes and ponds. We have more development around lakes, more erosion, people putting in beaches. It's no wonder people have been seeing a change in water quality."

Preserving our lakes is going to be a real challenge to our political system. Most of New Hampshire's lakes have strong protective associations that have lobbied hard for protective measurers such as the one that went into effect this summer.

Most of our politicians think long range planning means getting ready for the next election. A lot of our behavior, political and personal, is based on doing things that will last our lifetime. We talk about wanting to preserve things for our children and grandchildren, but usually we do not act as if we mean it. If we are going to protect our lakes, we are going to have to act and think as if we care about a future hundreds of years from now. That's a pretty big challenge for us and our political system.



Barbara and Gardner Dresser host Regatta Festivities

# THE GRANITE QUARRIES OF FITZWILLIAM

By Dorrie Jones  Leisure Magazine 1/31/80

Today Fitzwilliam's granite quarries are abandoned and the last stone carver, Philip Yon, died in 1981.

In January 1980 Philip Yon gave the following interview.

They're all gone. I'm the last one in Fitzwilliam doing anything with granite. It's a dying trade," and the sprightly eighty-four-year-old turned back to hand polishing the already glassy granite slab.

Philip Yon has carved headstones and monuments most of his life. His face and body belie those years. His short-cropped hair is peppered gray and white. His brawny body remains straight. His cheeks are firm: only one furrow indents an otherwise smooth brow. His long-fingered hands relax momentarily and reach for a cigarette as we talk. His voice is strong and his words decisive, like the material in which he works.

**Phillip Yon 1894 - 1981**

"I've been lucky," he answers when asked how he keeps his health and enthusiasm for work. He adds, with a glint in his eye, "No moonshine, no sunshine."

While there are others left who remember the heyday of granite quarrying in the Granite State, Yon's unique contribution continues to this day. He might have retired earlier too, but he laughs heartily, "Yeh, I think about retiring-then I go to bed at night."

Yon's parents were born in northern Italy and made their way to Fitzwilliam where they bought a promising piece of Fitzwilliam township. Philip was born there in 1894 when the granite industry was already flourishing.

Fitzwilliam was, and still is in spite of extensive quarrying, abundant and overlain with granite. Erratics scattered over the township provided easily accessible material that produced an incipient industry even before 1840.

Bedrock that lay so close to the surface that it required no splitting for its removal except to free the sides and ends yielded thick slabs for steps and entrances to buildings. This granite was soon known beyond the township. People came in horsedrawn carts as far away as Massachusetts to pick up pieces of Fitzwilliam granite.

While granite is one of the most abundant rocks on earth, few towns in New England were so highly favored as Fitzwilliam in the *quality* of its granite. It was uniform in color, without small seams of lighter or darker shades. This igneous rock had colled slowly to produce an unusually fine-grained material. Firm and evenly textured, Fitzwilliam granite took a beautiful polish. More importantly, it was free from iron oxide that after a few years' exposure to rain, caused unsightly stains on granite buildings. It was nearly as white as marble when polished and far more durable. It was a noble natural resource of the massive public buildings and memorials in vogue at the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century.

The first major quarry was opened in 1834 by a stonecutter named John Milne who was from Aberdeen, Scotland. The completion of the Cheshire Railroad in 1848 gave the necessary spur to the industry. The station, called Fitzwilliam Depot, was located to serve the quarries that were mainly south southwest of the village center. Around the numerous stone sheds quickly grew a hamlet with houses, stores, post office, several mills and manufacturing plants, the Methodist chapel and a school.

Tall wooden derricks marked the locations of quarrying activities. Much energy and hard human and animal labor at first was necessary to extract the stone, to haul it to the sheds where it was rough cut, then to the railroad to be shipped to far away cities. When steam became more common, a traction-powered engine handling stone was a commonplace sight in Fitzwilliam Depot.

"I started when I was twelve years old," Yon recalls. That would have been 1906. "There were about 300 men working the quarries then. And ten or eleven different concerns, including my father's."

Along with the Yon name, there were quarry owners with more familiar Yankee names-Reed, Webb, Thompson, Blodgett, White, Forbush, Damon, Dutton-and this is not a complete list by any means.

About ten or so years later at the industry's peak, some 300 to 400 workers were employed. Most brought their families to swell Fitzwilliam's population. The unattached lived in boarding houses near the Depot.

"Not too many wanted to do that kind of work. There were accidents, " Yon went on. "Guess I was lucky again...never got hurt. Only shaken up a bit once when I was a kid just starting to help my pa. Don't know how it happened. There I was-woke up flat on my back. Blown clear across the road. Nothing broken. But nobody could say how it happened."

By the early 1900's, pneumatic tools made some of the work easier. "But at the same time," Yon explains, "it made it more hazardous-breathing all that granite dust."

Extra pay for hazardous duty was recognized, but not long-term cumulative effects. Fitzwilliam quarry workers were organized into a union called Granite Cutters International Association. An agreement between the Association and quarry owners in effect between 1900 and 1908 spelled out these working conditions:

- 8 hours a day
- 6 days a week
- Minimum wage-$2.80 a day
- Minimum wage per hour-35¢
- One hour allowed for dinner
- Any cutter required to go from the shed to the quarries to cut stone was to be paid 25¢ a day extra.
- Double pay on holidays
- No cutter allowed to work on Labor Day

It wasn't long after his "lucky" accident that Yon decided that he wanted to do something other than cut granite in the quarries or in the sheds. "I knew I'd rather carve it, but an apprenticeship would have meant four years working and learning with a master. I didn't have time for that."

The youth, hardly into his teens, set about to teach himself the art of carving designs, names, and dates into obdurate granite. He had some help from an uncle who "was pretty good" but the uncle soon left town. Yon was on his own.

There were few other carvers in the area as most of Fitzwilliam's granite was shipped out in rough state. In the eighty or so years of the granite quarrying era, Fitzwilliam products had been sent far beyond the state. The granite was used for bridges and curbs for streets and highways in the burgeoning highway systems as the motor car became a permanent feature on the landscape.

The industry peaked in Fitzwilliam and other New Hampshire sites in the years between 1915 and 1918. The introduction of reinforced cement construction spelled the end of the granite era.

Yon continued to extract granite from family quarries for headstones and monuments. He worked alone, hauling blocks back to his shop where he set his calipers, rule and fine carving tools to them. It is still the actual creation of a small work of art that gives Yon satisfaction and continued interest in working and living. His creations are found in countless sites in New Hampshire.

"I've carved so many I can't remember where they all went. People come from all over," says Yon modestly. "I guess they like what I do."

In recent years, work at the quarry became too hard. Now Yon drives to Milford to pick up what he needs. There he can also get special requests like red granite from Missouri or marble from Vermont.

The smaller abandoned quarries along Route 119 west of the Depot are easily spotted, their gaping holes filled with rain and spring waters. On hot summer days, the young people in town can direct you to their favorite swimming quarries.

The huge mounds of granite blocks, looking like dominoes tossed by a restless giant (although as far as I know, this industry never spawned any such legendary character), are monuments in their own way, marking the days when granite trade and Fitzwilliam flourished.

# THE FITZWILLIAM YOU'VE NEVER SEEN

By Steve Sherman
The Monadnock Home Companion

Sometimes people move into town, go to work, get involved in everyday doings, but in their normal rounds don't see interesting parts of their communities.

Knowing this, Mary Lou Fuller and Bob Corrette of the Fitzwilliam Historical Society recently organized and conducted a tour of Howeville, an intriguing sub-community of Fitzwilliam around South Pond, now known as Laurel Lake.

The excursion was billed as seeing "the religious, industrious, famous and infamous, of long (and not so long) ago."

The tour began at the Blake House Museum on the common, and the first stop on Putney Road was the infamous. Here was the summer home of Harry Dexter White, the former assistant secretary of the treasury under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was accused of espionage, along with Alger Hiss. White was part of the Cold War and brought Whitaker Chambers and the inflammatory Sen. Joseph McCarthy to national notriety and provided a launching pad for Richard Nixon, who made political hay of the situation.

A little farther down the one lane, tree-hugged Putney Road comes the turnoff to Fish Rock Road. Not far down the dirt road to Club Pond (or Meadow Pond) lies a smooth, exposed granite boulder in the middle of the road. On the rock is what looks like an intentionally carved outline of a fish.

"If it's an Indian symbol," fuller said, "this has got to go back into the 1700s. The theory is that it's pointing to good fishing grounds.

On the other hand, the rock outline may be a creation of nature. Said Fuller: "It could be a fluke."

Howeville consisted of Howeville Mill, Howeville Store (built in 1867), two schoolhouses (one built in 1820), and a population of 100 people.

The mill manufactured wooden pails, measures to scoop out feed, and pails with lids and wire handles for shipping blueberries to Boston.

Unfortunately, the mill kept burning down, and no really effective way existed to fight the fire. "You had to hand it to them for stick-to-itness," Fuller said, referring to the dedicated rebuilding of the mill.

Some houses from that era remain, including one whose inhabitants fought in the Civil War.

"The Whipple home rented horses and sold maple ice cream. "People can remember going into the living room and seeing the family all sitting around, pulling turkey feathers out of a headless bird," Fuller said of turn-of-century life.

The mill complex disappeared forever in the 1920s. "When Howeville was at its height," she said, "the hotel was a boardinghouse for women workers at the mill. It's now the main building for the summer camp.

The Episcopal girls campground at Laurel Lake was established in 1929, although no Episcopal church existed in Fitzwilliam.

"When they opened the open-air chapel." fuller said, walking to a nearby spruce tree on a point of land on the edge of South Pond, "People used to come by boat and just float in the water to attend the service."

Today, many campground alumni get married at this chapel, which has a stone altar by the side of the lake.

At this south end of the lake, ice harvesting was once a thriving business. Fuller tells the story of a Finnish man who loaded ice blocks on his wagon and slapped his horse to send the load up the steep road to home, "where his wife would laboriously unload the ice, put it in the ice house and slap the horse to go back to her husband. One day, the horse got sick and tired of the whole thing after he slapped him to go up the road, and turned around with the full load and came back to him."

Behind the main summer camp building, the town pound of the 1820-30s remains intact. "It had to be horse-high and pig-tight," Fuller said.

Farther down the path a few yards, Frog Pond was once a fast-moving channel of water connected with the water power source for the mill. Bulky granite blocks of the mill system lie across the way, as signs of a once-exuberant sub-community.

**NOTICE**
**Annual Meeting date may change to avoid conflict with Fitzwilliam Antique Show**

# LET US LIGHT UP THE SKIES ON JULY FOURTH

By George Graf

Last Fall, in a conversation with a relative in New York State, I learned of an activity sponsored by a civic group that occurs each year on a lake in the State. The property owners on the shores of this lake display lighted flares or fusees on the shore of their property at sun down on July 4th. It apparently is an impressive sight and a good way to celebrate our country's independence. Further, the civic group is able to supplement its treasury from the sales of the fusees.

A proposal was presented to the LLA Board in September to undertake such a "celebration" in 1995. The Board gave the go ahead for the project. Who knows, we might be the first lake in our area to do this.

While we speak of celebrating our independence, one soon finds out that we are not as independent as one might think. Essentially, permission must be obtained for each property owner to display a burning fusee on his lake shore line. We plan to try to take care of this.

The NH Dept. of Environmental Services has been contacted. They see no objection as far as water pollution is concerned. The manufacturer of fusees has provided us information on the chemical content of the devices. No phosphorous will be discharged by a burning fusee to pollute the lake. And finally, the selectman of Fitzwilliam will probably grant the LLA a permit to promote the celebration, if we get the approval of the Town Fire Wardens and the Police Chief. Does this give you an appreciation of the character of our independence?

So, with a permit in hand we will ask all LLA members, especially lake shore property owners, to purchase one or more fusees from an Association representative next June.
It is tentatively planned to have a simultaneous display around the lake of lighted flares at 9:15 PM on July 3, 1995. This event should be a safe way for us to celebrate the holiday.

Some may ask why on July 3. That date was selected because some of us have to leave the lake on the evening of July 4. We would hope everyone on the lake could witness what is hoped will be a beautiful, memorable display of patriotism.

Don't forget, buy your fusee from your LLA representative and help promote our programs.

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Laurel Lake Association
Treasurer's Report
September 30, 1994

Year Beginning October 1

| | 1994 | 1993 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Balance October 1 | $2,879.52 | $3,102.13 | $(222.61) |
| Receipts | | | |
| Membership | 1,525.00 | 1,160.00 | 365.00 |
| Interest | 52.45 | 62.21 | (9.76) |
| Maps and T-Shirts | 60.00 | 160.00 | (100.00) |
| Donation | 30.00 | 0.00 | 30.00 |
| Canoe Race | 14.00 | 0.00 | 14.00 |
| TOTAL | 1,681.45 | 1,382.21 | 299.24 |
| | 4,560.97 | 4,484.34 | 76.63 |
| Disbursements | | | |
| Water Testing | 161.80 | 182.25 | (20.45) |
| Ledger | 635.14 | 920.05 | (284.91) |
| Postage | 63.80 | 82.22 | (18.42) |
| Annual Meeting | 91.78 | 192.79 | (101.01) |
| N. H. Lakes Association | 100.00 | 100.00 | --- |
| Canoe Race | 0.00 | 93.32 | (93.32) |
| Regatta | 40.29 | 34.119 | 6.10 |
| Sign | 200.00 | 0.00 | 200.00 |
| TOTAL | $1,292.81 | $1,604.82 | ($312.01) |
| Balance September 30 | $3,268.16 | $2,879.52 | $ 388.64 |
| Additional C/D | $5,209.56 | $5,031.12 | $ 178.44 |

# UP-DATE FROM THE HALLS OF GOVERNMENT

- **PHOSPHOROUS CONTROLS**

A bill to limit the trace amounts of phosphate content in household detergents and cleaning products was signed into law by Governor Merrill.

Supporters of the bill wanted the lower limits to also apply to dishwasher and commercial soaps, which can have phosphorus contents as high as 7.6% - the level presently allowed by Federal Law.

- **MOORING PERMITS**

A bill to eliminate the requirement that any person applying for a mooring permit furnish the director of the NH Division of Safety Services with proof of a boat registration. The House placed the bill into interim study.

# RASH OF LAKE ITCH COMPLAINTS MAY BE JUST THE BEGINNING

NH Sunday News, July 10, 1994 Amy Vellucci

Although state officials stress "swimmers itch" is neither pervasive nor a health threat, it may become a widespread problem in years to come, thanks to increasing numbers of a particularly sociable duck - the mallard.

The annoying rash has been reported by swimmers at half a dozen lakes this summer, as you may have read in widely publicized stories.

The rash occurs when parasite from the excrement of waterfowl, including ducks, geese and even gulls, penetrates the skin.

The parasite releases eggs into the bird's intestine, which get into the water through its feces. They then infect snails, which release larvae. The larvae are aiming to infect ducks but sometimes confuse humans with the birds and attempt to burrow into their skin.

A reddened spot appears on the skin, enlargens and becomes raised, like a pimple. It's usually itchy.

The drake mallard, with its distinctive green head and white neck band (the females are a mottled brown), was once a rarity in the Granite State.

But the ducks, which can adapt to almost any natural or artificial wetland, have been spreading over the past few decades. They aren't afraid of people, often tugging on pant legs for a handout.

Many have stopped migrating, choosing instead to spend winter in areas where humans provide an ample food supply.

Similarly, the Canada goose population is growing.

George H. Hass, migratory bird coordinator with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, said New England and the Eastern Seaboard have seen a substantial jump in the numbers of mallards and Canada geese.

In New Hampshire, the number of Canada geese nearly tripled in five years, he said.

The number of other waterfowl also went up, including sea ducks, scaups, mute swans and black ducks.

"As beautiful as mallards and Canada geese are, the other side of this (increase) is that there can be some property damage...and the swimmer's itch," Haas said.

They eat just about anything, including the leftovers from people's fast-food lunches, which is why the species is so successful, he said.

That's the reason many communities, especially lakeside towns, have set up ordinances prohibiting the public from feeding the birds.

Canada geese have been attracted to man-made ponds on golf courses and lawns -- "nice little habitats."

Haas predicted the growth trend will continue.

Nancy Jackson-Reno, assistant information officer for the state Public Health Department, said the burgeoning duck population likely will mean a future increase in "swimmer's itch" outbreaks.

That could be a deterrent to tourists.

Robert H. Estabrook, chief aquatic biologist with the state Department of Environmental Services, said his department has received several telephone calls from people wondering whether they should cancel their New Hampshire vacations.

"The minute you say 'parasite,' they say, "Well, does it cause a parasite in humans?"

State officials including Robert W. Varney, commissioner of DES, have put out several press releases, hoping to allay public concern.

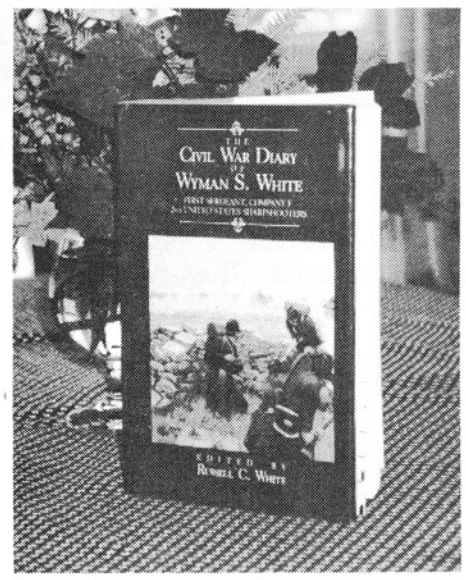
Estabrook and other officials have been explaining the "itch' is not a health hazard, usually disappears within a few days, and is not related to pollution or poor water quality.

But, he admitted, there's no way to eradicate it.

Although "swimmer's itch" has been around for many years, Estabrook conceded," it does seem over the last few years we've had more calls on (it) and (the increase in ducks) could be tied to that".

But Stephen H. Wheeler, a wildlife biologist with the state Fish and Game Department, said he doesn't think the bird explosion is related to "swimmer's itch." Although mallard populations have gone up, the ducks mostly have stayed in marsh areas and other wild spots, away from people, he maintained.

Estabrook and Wheeler both said they wouldn't characterize the pesky rash as a widespread problem in the state. Complaints have come from swimmers in just five ponds and lakes, NOT including Laurel Lake.




**A must read for Lakers interested in Civil War history**

# BOOK ALERT

## THE CIVIL WAR DIARY OF WYMAN S. WHITE,

RUSSELL C. WHITE, ED. BALTMORE: BUTTERNUT AND BWE. 1991, 373 PAGES.

A most interesting diary of Wyman S. White, first sergeant, company F Second United State Sharpshooters, who was a great uncle of the current Laurel Lake White family members, Vi, John, Silas, Robert and Grace.

The diary has been a treasured possession of the Laurel Lake White's for sometime, and has now been published as the PBS Civil War series and epic movies like Gettysburg. have become acclaimed in the past few years. The attractive jacketed book is now carried in bookstores at such historic sites as Gettysburg, but may also be ordered from the publisher ISBN #0-935523-26-X. (P.S. George Graf reports he purchased a copy at the Fitzwilliam Library). There are numerous references to the Keene-Fitzwilliam depot area in Wyman's diary entries. An especially interesting one is found on pp. 217 when he describes his homecoming on furlough to his parent's home, the farmhouse which is still located on the edge of White's Campground field and now home to Anne (White) Pelkey.

Some of the Civil War Memorabilia from Wyman Whites War days are part of the White Military Room collection at the Blake House Museum in Fitzwilliam Center.

**ATTENTION TEENS**

**If you are interested in getting together with other teens this summer and getting involved in activities such as volleyball or basketball games, swimming parties, etc., or whatever ideas you might have. Please contact me, Corrine Dumont, at 20 Surrey Lane, Chicopee, MA 01013, or by E-mail: cdumont @ k12.oit.umass.edu**

# LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 1994

**June 18, 1994 Board of Directors meeting the home of President Phyllis Chase**

The Laurel Lake Association held its Board of Directors' Meeting on Saturday, June 18, 1994, at the home of Phyllis Chase on West Lake Road.

In attendance were Phyllis Chase, Jack Dumont, Larry Friedman, Milt Poqovsky, Don Garland, Barbara Green, George Graf, Jr., Don Austin, Jim Baldwin, Don Treat, Charles Brackett, Arnold Anderson, Anne Korjeff, Bruce Knight, and Liz Young.

Meeting was called to order by President Chase at 9:10 a.m. Secretary Jack Dumont read the minutes of the Saturday, September 11, 1993, Board of Directors' Meeting. Don Austin motioned, and was seconded, that the minutes be accepted as read. Motion passed unanimously.

Association Treasurer Don Austin gave a financial accounting of the Association up to the present time. George Graf, Jr., motioned, and was seconded, to receive the report as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

President Phyllis Chase presented information on future meetings and seminars of the New Hampshire Lakes Association.

George Graf motioned and was seconded, to provide Terry and Carolyn Cavadini, and Ken and Evelyn Cavadini, with free memberships to the Laurel Lake Association as long as they maintained the sign they constructed for the boat ramp area. The motion was defeated 2 Yes and 13 No.

Don Garland motioned to pay the Cavadini's for the sign they provided for the boat ramp area. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Larry Friedman reported on the *Laurel Lake Ledger* and plans for the 1994 Sunfish Labor Day Regatta.

Arnold Anderson, who prepared a letter for the officers of the Swim Club on last year's activities and the conduct of its members, discussed the issues with the Board of Directors. It was decided that the letter should not be sent at this time, and that a representative group will meet with the Swim Club officers.

Liz Young and Jim Baldwin reported that there has been no change or progress in alleviating the water flow under the Pratt cottage.

The Board of Directors discussed the Annual Meeting scheduled for Saturday, July 16, 1994, at White's Grove, Laurel Lake Campground. Items discussed were the coordination of the food, obtaining a speaker for the event, and the election of four Board of Directors whose terms expire this year.

Charles Brackett, Chairman of the Kayak and Canoe Race, scheduled for Saturday, July 23, 1994, informed the Board of Directors of the various classes of races and this year's entry fee. He also distributed notices and encouraged all to attend.

The meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m. on a motion by Don Austin.

# LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1994

The Laurel Lake Association held its Board of Director's Meeting on Saturday, September 10, 1994, at Camp Fleur de Lis in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire.

In attendance were Don Austin, Jack Dumont, Barbara Green, Marguerite Albertini, Larry Friedman, Phyllis Chase, George Graf, Anne Korjeff, Liz Young, Don Treat, Dana Mullett, Arnold Anderson, Don Garland, Susan Wood, Jim Baldwin, Charles Brackett, and Michael Friedman.

The meeting was called to order by President Phyllis Chase at 9:18 a.m. Secretary Jack Dumont read the minutes of the June 18, 1994 Board of Directors' Meeting. Liz Young motioned that the Secretary's report be accepted as correct. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Association Treasurer Don Austin presented a report on the current financial status of the Association. Don Treat motioned that the Treasurer's Report be received as presented. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Marguerite Albertini reported to the Board that there was discontent on the part of some of the members of the Association in the grove area dealing with the representation of Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors discussed whether a bill had been received from the Cavadini's regarding the construction of the sign at the boat ramp area.

Charles Brackett, Chairman of the Canoe and Kayak Race, reported on this year's race. There were 80 participants, and the race garnered $14 in profits. Also, the canoe instructions to children given on the prior weekend were very successful. Anne Korjeff motioned and was seconded, that Bob White, Ann Pelky, Vi Swenor, Cal Linkenhoker, and the Hoylands be sent letters of thanks for their cooperation and the use of their properties during the Canoe and Kayak Race. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Michael Friedman, Chairman of the Labor Day Sunfish Regatta, reported on this year's event. A total of ten boats participated with Jay McNamara winning the event. Michael informed the Board that he was resigning from his Chairmanship due to future plans, but Jay McNamara has offered to serve in his place. Marguerite Albertini motioned, and was seconded, that the report be accepted and special thanks be given Michael Friedman for a job well done. The motion passed unanimously.

Several members of the Board discussed the water flow under the Pratt property. Jim Baldwin volunteered to serve as Chairman of the Water Control Committee.

Arnold Anderson spoke on this year's summer activities of the Swim Club as being a much better situation and that the Swim Club was more sensitive to the surrounding neighbors.

Discussion took place regarding a meeting with the Selectmen as it related to the tax issues and sanitary conditions of the public beach. Motion by Marguerite Albertini to have Dana Mullett apprise the President of the Association of any sales of property on Laurel Lake. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

George Graf brought up the matter of publicity for the Laurel Lake Association. The subject was taken under advisement by President Chase.

Larry Friedman, Editor and Publisher of the *Laurel Lake Ledger*, requested news stories for this year's edition and stated that Eve Samuels had volunteered to assist him. George Graf is also in the process of assisting with the mailing labels. The deadline for articles is November 1, 1994.

George Graf reported on a proposal to the Board of Directors to have a flare display around Laurel Lake to celebrate the Fourth of July. He had touched base with town officials regarding the issuance of a permit and with the State of New Hampshire as it relates to pollution. The flares could be purchased from Atlas Fireworks Co. for $1.50 each and sold to members of the Association for $5. George Graf motioned to have the Association sponsor a display of flares on July 3, 1995, and sell them for $5 a piece, only after receiving written clarification regarding liability and confirmation that the Town of Fitzwilliam will issue the proper permits.

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Motion by Jim Baldwin to purchase two plaques, one for Don Garland and one for Milt Posovsky, to show them our appreciation for the time they have spent working for the Association. Furthermore, an article about their service should appear in the *Laurel Lake Ledger*. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Don Treat gave a report on this year's water testing. Of particular concern was the decreasing loss of clarity and the high levels of phosphorus, particularly in June. The Water Testing Committee will report to the Board and the membership with specific recommendations.

Motion by Larry Friedman to allow Charles Brackett to set up a savings account for the Canoe and Kayak Race. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

On a motion by Arnold Anderson to adjourn. Seconded and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack H. Dumont, Secretary

# LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

1995 Officers

| | |
|---|---|
| Phyllis Chase | President |
| Jim Baldwin | Vice President |
| Jack Dumont | Secretary |
| Don Austin | Treasurer |

Board of Directors

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| George Graf | 1997 | Milt Posovsky | 1996 |
| Barbara Green | 1997 | Charles Brackett | 1995 |
| Dana Mullette | 1997 | Larry Friedman | 1995 |
| Susan Wood | 1997 | Bruce Knight | 1995 |
| Marguerite Albertini | 1996 | Don Treat | 1995 |
| Arnold Anderson | 1996 | Liz Young | 1995 |
| Anne Korjeff | 1996 | | |

Committee Chairpersons

| | |
|---|---|
| Larry Friedman/Eve Samuels | Editor/Publisher Laurel Lake Ledger |
| Don Treat | Water Testing Committee |
| | Nominating Committee |
| Jim Townsend | Lake Boating / Navigation Aid |
| Jack & Barbara Dumont | Annual Meeting / Family Picnic |
| Charles Brackett | Canoe / Kayak Race |
| Jay McNamera | Labor Day Sunfish Regatta |
| Jim Baldwin | Water Control Committee |

1995 Association Meeting & Activity Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Board of Directors' Meeting at Chase/Dumont on West Lake Road | Sat., June 17, 1995 |
| Annual Meeting / Family Picnic | Sat., July 15, 1995 |
| Canoe / Kayak Race | Sat., July 22, 1995 |
| Rain Date | Sun., July 23, 1995 |
| Labor Day Sunfish Regatta | Sun., Sept. 3, 1995 |
| Rain Date | Mon., Sept. 4, 1995 |
| Board of Directors' Meeting | Sat., Sept. 9, 1995 |

Note: Dates May Change with Notice

# SUMMERTIME ON LAUREL LAKE

**By Dixie Lee Clifford---Gourmet Magazine July 1984**

For nearly a decade my family traveled north for New England summers of church steeples and stone walls, phlox and delphinium spirals, blueberries and catfish, mountain and lake, cousins from Boston and neighbors from Concord.

We came to smell just-mowed hay, taste hand-pumped spring water, and climb twin peaks of a bald mountain. And we came for corn fritters dripping maple syrup and bread pudding dripping cream, for brown eggs beaten into omelets, for fried cakes solid for dunking, and for blueberry everything--muffins, cakes, pancakes, pies--and plainly swimming in cream. Summers meant gingerbread, sticky apples, and fried trout. It was green beans, freshly snapped and dressed with bacon, buttery Cheddar melted on thick toast, and watermelon beaded with sugar. And hand-cranked ice cream, sometimes a bit thin when the ice ran low, and toasted marshmallows, sometimes a bit black when the fire burned high.

We came as part of the Scovel clan, whose twenty-eight members visited from two continents, always stopping long enough to cook. A Boston man concentrated soup stock that jelled and shivered when chilled and a north of London lady layered puff pastry. One cook knew the ups and downs of whole-wheat bread and the charm of rosemary on a roasting bird. The car from Saranac Lake brought a mace-flavored pound cake and a streusel-ribboned sour cream cake. Saturdays meant a cast-iron pot of baked beans black with molasses, a crystal pitcher of lemonade sparked with mint and cloudy with ice, coleslaw sweet with raisins or tart with buttermilk, depending on the cook of the day, but the brownies always came heavy with walnuts. A scorcher meant cold zucchini soup; a northeastern blow brought hot Bolognese sauce. And one man always looked over the table and said, "What a way to go."

These New Hampshire summers began when we visited the Carl Scovels' summer house on Laurel Lake in Fitzwilliam. The cousins fought, the dog tangled with a porcupine, lightning struck the water pump, and we decided it was a fine vacation with just the right blend of drama and mosquitoes.

So we hunted up a house on the west side of the lake, a white shingled structure that stood on a sandy piece of shore. The house had a wide porch with a glider, four rocking chairs, and a few pieces of stationery wicker. Eighteen screened windows would swing open to catch the water's air, and leaning birches, bark flecked with black, filtered the heat of summer's afternoons. Pink petunias nodded from deep green porch boxes, and impatiens bloomed by the kitchen door. Dragonflies shimmered and darted over the dock while a pair of catfish treaded water under a tangle of vine. Most days a sail moved slowly in the late morning sun and children-- with arms and oars--practiced their strokes and the barn swallow practiced its dive.

We arrived in July with a burst of order and plans. Our daughters would move into the upstairs bedroom with its sloping eaves and faded wallpaper. They gave up winter's isolation of separate quarters for the shared jumble of Nancy Drew and Jane Austen, ever damp bathing suits and a pair of stuffed bears - one English, the other polar. We responded to the newness of vacation with resolutions of admirable intentions. As soon as the sheets covered the beds, someone had decided this was the year to swim all the way across the lake. Another vowed to set aside part of every morning to review Latin verbs, keeping the third part of *do, dare, dedi, datus* firmly in hand for September.

Schedules were drawn to climb Monadnock mountain, to row the lake, to browse the bookstores in Marlborough, to see *Annie Get Your Gun* at the Keene State College Summer Theatre.

We always went straight away to the Jaffrey Center Meeting House to sit on hard benches and hear the softness of Brahms. The cellist wore her long hair, damp from an afternoon swim, wrapped snug around her head, and the viola player wore a sunburned nose. After the last encore and the final round of applause we double-timed home over the winding back road to Fitzwilliam, often to the tune of a New Hampshire summer storm with its blasts of thunder and crackling orange light. We arrived breathless to poke up the fire in the fireplace, roast a marshmallow, and stir hot chocolate with a cinnamon stick.

About the fifth day, though, our headlong dash slackened.

Driving twenty on the lake Road, we would stop for brown eggs and a dozen pullets on the east side and then steer over to the west side for a bucket of berries from Blueberry Hill. Then we took the old blacktop to Jaffrey, passing a horse here and there, a fishing pond, and a farmer mowing hay with a red Ford. The road edged pastures neat and green and pastures invaded by ground juniper and pine whose crisscrossing stone walls gave the only clue that the land had not always been woods.

Just before the right turn onto the smoother concrete a break in the hardwood gave sight to Mount Monadnock, its granite showing a purple blush in the sun's light. Whether our first sweep past of the summer or the last, someone always said, "Look at the mountain." And we all did.

We usually made Coll's Farm by late morning. It filled a hillside the other side of Jaffrey, down a dusty dirt road, over idle railroad tracks, and up a one-lane path. Two goats watched the comings and goings and bleated a greeting as cars pulled in for straight green beans and firm pickling cukes. On a shelf near the east window stood small jars of last year's peach preserves and this year's strawberry jam. Dill, its cut ends in a Mason jar of water, waited in the cooler for pickling brine. We always left with corn and ripe tomatoes and most often with zucchini and crookneck squash and baby beets.

By now it was hot and everyone wanted a swim so we took the direct route to the yellow Victorian house facing Troy's village green. The first floor ovens baked up a specialty most days, and we sampled each one. On Saturdays we toasted raisin bread. Tuesday's lunch found slivered roast beef, shreds of romaine, chopped red onion, and oil and vinegar stuffed into flour-streaked *pita* loaves. Wednesdays we sliced whole-wheat bread thick to round out a cold zucchini soup lunch. And any day we found raspberry tarts was an occasion all by itself.

By one o'clock we would be back at the lake and the day would have lost its newness.

We were weary of each other, and someone would take binoculars and the rowboat and fill the afternoon. Another carried *Pride and Prejudice,* with the "indecisive Mr. Bingley" and the "odious Miss King," along with suntan lotion, on her head and waded through nose-high water to the raft and solitude. The glider swayed on the porch, and a nap went on in the back bedroom.

Evening settled in a little before nine, and we often took the wooden lazy Susan off the table, divvied up the kitchen matches for chips, and played a few hands of cards. We never dallied over one game but moved briskly through five-card stud, seven-card draw, right on to twenty-one. I lack the precision of mind for bridge, so when the shuffle began I went up to read and was replaced by a stuffed bear who wore red rubber boots and a safety pin in his hat. He came to live with us one year in London, and I was told he had a taste for orange marmalade, a fear of ghosts, and only read *The New York Times.* The gaming table found him amiable, and cards continued for another half hour.

Not all our days were aimless; there was fair day.

The Cheshire Fair ran all week and never offered the same thing to any two people. There was blue ribbon judging for the flakiest biscuit and the grandest apple pie, for the best marigold and the most delicate bachelor's button, for the neatest embroidery and the prettiest sampler quilt. Pink pigs with corkscrew tails came and so did sheep who liked trouble more than parading and most often combined the two. The fair decided whose ax could chop the most wood, whose son grew the best heifer, and whose wife cold-packed the handsomest beets. We rode the Ferris wheel and the merry-go-round and tortured ourselves with screams on the cobra; we tasted cotton candy, snow cones, and Aunt Hatty's fudge; we pitched pennies, tossed rings, and threw baseballs. And while we sat on milk cans at the Farm Bureau counter eating fried cakes and slabs of pie, smart farm families avoided the lure of dear prices by putting down the tailgate of the pickup and sharing a thrifty picnic of deviled eggs and cupcakes.

The fair was a showcase for the young and the old, the devout and the hustler, the artist and the farmer. We strolled by the works of the 4-H, beekeepers, photographers, and painters in oils. Behind chicken wire the Grange centered a Bible opened to the 23rd Psalm and circled it with a shaft of wheat, canned goods from the cellar, and garden vegetables wilting in the heat. When I grew tired of all the touring and riding and admiring and eating, I left the pleasures of the midway and settled on the bleachers in the shade for my favorite event of the Cheshire Fair; the pony pull.

The teams got up early, a few before the sun, to travel down from Vermont or up from Massachusetts to strain at the load of concrete slabs. Each team had three hitches, three tries, to move the load. And each team needed three pairs of hands to cajole and prod the ponies through their paces. For a few summers I saw a young girl join her brother and father in handling the family team, but the next year she wore a new lilac-colored blouse and stood on the sidelines smiling at a driver from Walpole. A cheerful voice would come over the loudspeaker, praising the team and driver and announcing the increased weight of the load. Most ponies grew weary around ten thousand pounds.

My favorite driver, though, never neared the top weights. He looked to be about nine and called himself Rick. A plug of tobacco stuck out of his hip pocket, and he kept his cap low over his eyes. He snapped his whip and showed only determination when his team responded with a feeble attempt. But his pluck pleased the announcer and the crowd, who gave him a big hand. Over the years I also became partial to a pair of grays from East Swanzey. They never pulled the best weight either, but the teamster and I still showed up each year.

A billboard promised a musical explosion by Billy Thunderkloud and the Chieftones for evening, but we usually ran low on steam by late afternoon and headed home in need of a swim and a simple supper.

No days were better, though, than the ordinary ones, the days spent busy with the necessities of lake living. A trip to the silver pump for water or Roy's store for milk or Troy's Laundromat to give the towels a wash. Days of sweeping the dock, watering the flowers, or putting by a little extra wood in case of a cool spell.

At four o'clock we would start listening for the cousins, and soon I'd hear a great racket and see a backwash of white water that could only be churned up by five kids, a dog called Licorice, four inner tubes, and two wooden, but leaky, rowboats. Kids would dance and fall off the raft, and play Marco Polo, and get mad and make up, and swim from dock to raft until toes wrinkled and thigh muscles quivered.

Then we would pile into the car and drive around to the cousins' house, the big old house with the tire swing and stone steps, with the meadow and garden. The kitchen was practical, not fancy, with utensils everywhere, discreetly placed; a black drying pan so big it allowed a dozen eggs room to fry; walls lined with small strainers for the loose leaves of English breakfast tea; shredders for Vermont Cheddar, the garden's cabbage, and the precious nutmeg; and egg beaters, hand and electric, to coax up popovers and omelets, egg whites for meringue, and custard for the ice-cream maker.

The dining room was comfortable cluttered with no order to the books or tennis rackets or Monopoly games; just a big table and a batch of chairs and an assortment of silver that didn't match. And on the wall, high up for everyone to see, was dinner's grace:

> Back of the loaf is the snowy flour,
> Back of the flour is the mill,
> Back of the mill is the wheat and the shower, the sun and the Father's will.

The center of the rambling house was, however, the kitchen. Someone was always putting on the kettle, setting a batch of bread, soaking a pan of beans, or just learning the magic of mixing up a few quite ordinary things and getting back something quite extraordinary. Recipes for blueberry muffins and popovers were painted on the gray floor, right underfoot for any bored child to find, try, and enjoy success.

The kids also often joined in making dinner. Once we formed an assembly line and mixed up ginger cookies from a spattered page of *The Joy of Cooking.* An eight-year-old sifted, a teenager beat the dough, and it took two cousins to spin the balls of batter through a bowl of sugar. A brother and his wife greased cookie sheets and hummed "Edelweiss."

As the day faded into night and we moved around the big kitchen, there always came a time when voices ceased and I paused in my work and felt summer. My body was tan, and my skin felt smooth and cool from the lake. I wore an old apron with a loose ruffle while tasting the bite of lime in a gin and tonic. I would hear water rushing over lettuce leaves, a pan banging the whereabouts of the green beans, the scraping of batter and oven racks, the sizzle of butter giving in to the pressure of heat, the tapping of a spoon against the cinnamon can, the jangle of silver, the panting of Licorice resting near her water dish. I would know the earth's smell of fresh spinach steaming or catch a whiff of onion in the beet greens; I would know summer and contentment, family and belonging.

Round about August 15th a spindly maple turned red outside our kitchen door. It was a child tree, eager to be the first to announce fall and change. While packing the car one year, I was thinking of a young niece wearing a sweat shirt over her bathing suit and balancing rimless glasses over a nose of fresh freckles while cooking her first company dinner for an aunt and uncle's last New Hampshire supper of that summer. The chicken salad was cool, the blueberry pie without a patch, and she said her burnt thumb did not hurt much at all. I stopped my packing often as I found yet another reason for yet another trip to the dock, another few moments to prolong the summer.

Families grow, though, and summers, like the seasons themselves, change. A niece went to Paris and a nephew to Oregon; a brother took a fancy to salt water instead of the lake. A daughter gave up Jane Austen for *Grey's Anatomy*; another gave up Nancy Drew for *Sweet Savage Love.* It has been some time since I had a cup of morning coffee in a rowboat slipping past sleeping houses or swam in the rain, rolling over for a spell of the backstroke with the rain pecking

**continued on Page 12**

at my face, as I watched the fast moving gray overhead. My eggs are white now, not brown, and, like my ice cream, come in a carton.

Some memories begin to dim with time but not my days on Laurel Lake. I keep these cherished summers always in my mind, put away in lavender. And I'm lonesome sitting on Long Island remembering New England summers of church steeples and stone walls, phlox and delphinium spirals, blueberries and catfish, mountain and lake, cousins from Boston and daughters upstairs.

And when I want to reminisce further, I prepare the following dishes.

*Boston Baked Beans*

1 pound dried pea beans
1 teaspoon baking soda
¼ pound salt pork
6 tablespoons unsulphured dark molasses
1 teaspoon dry mustard
1 teaspoon salt

In a colander rinse the beans under cold water and discard any discolored ones. In a bowl cover the beans with 6 cups cold water and let them stand overnight. Drain the beans and rinse them in several changes of cold water. In a kettle cover the beans with 6 cups water, bring the water to a boil, and boil the beans for 15 minutes. Pour off the water, add 6 cups boiling water and the baking soda, and simmer the beans for 15 minutes. In a small bowl pour boiling water over the salt pork, rinse the pork under cold water, and score the rind at ½-inch intervals. Drain the beans, put half of them in a buttered 2-quart casserole, and add the salt pork and the remaining beans. In a bowl combine the molasses, the mustard, and the salt with 3 cups boiling water, stirring until the mixture is smooth, and pour the mixture over the beans. Bake the mixture, covered, in a preheated 275° F. oven, stirring occasionally and adding more water if the beans begin to look dry, for 7 hours. Bake the beans, uncovered, for 1 hour, or until they are very tender and the sauce is thickened. Serves 6 to 8.

*Gingerbread*

1 stick (½ cup) unsalted butter, softened
½ cup sugar
1 large egg, beaten lightly
1 cup unsulphured dark molasses
3 cups all-purpose flour
1½ teaspoons baking soda
½ teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon ground cloves
1 teaspoon ground ginger
whipped cream as an accompaniment if desired

In a large bowl with an electric mixer cream the butter, add the sugar gradually, and beat the mixture until it is fluffy. Add the egg and the molasses and beat the mixture until it is combined well. Into a bowl sift together the flour, the baking soda, the salt, the cloves, and the ginger and stir the mixture into the molasses mixture alternately with 1¼ cups boiling water, beginning and ending with the flour mixture and stirring until the batter is just blended. Pour the batter into a buttered 9-inch-square pan and bake the gingerbread in a preheated 350° F. oven for 40 to 45 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean. Cut the gingerbread into 3-inch squares and serve it warm, topped with the whipped cream if desired.

*Curried Chicken Salad*

3 cups cubed cooked chicken breast
1 cup fresh mandarin orange slices or an 11-ounce can mandarin orange slices, drained and patted dry
1 cup roasted unsalted cashew nuts
1 apple, peeled and chopped
½ cup raisins
1 cup seedless green grapes
1 cup mayonnaise (page 128)
1 teaspoon curry powder

In a large bowl combine the chicken, the orange slices, the cashews, the apple, the raisins, and the grapes. In a small bowl stir together the mayonnaise and the curry powder, add the dressing to the chicken mixture, and toss the salad well. Season the salad with salt and pepper. Serves 6.

*Popovers*

4 large eggs, beaten lightly
¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons milk
¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour
¼ teaspoon salt

In a bowl beat together the eggs and the milk, stir in the flour and the salt, and stir the batter until it is just combined. Pour the batter into 12 ungreased ⅓-cup muffin tins and put the tins in a cold oven. Set the oven to 425° F. and bake the popovers for 35 to 45 minutes, or until they are puffed and golden. Makes 12 popovers.

*Blueberry Cake*

*For the blueberry mixture*
2 cups blueberries, picked over and rinsed
⅔ cup sugar
¼ teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon grated lemon rind
¼ cup fresh lemon juice
1 tablespoon flour
3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted and cooled

*For the batter*
1 cup all-purpose flour
½ cup sugar
1 teaspoon double-acting baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
2 large egg yolks, beaten lightly
¼ cup milk
1 tablespoon unsalted butter, melted and cooled
whipped cream as an accompaniment if desired

Make the blueberry mixture: Spread the blueberries in the bottom of a buttered 9-inch round cake pan. In a bowl blend together the sugar, the cinnamon, the lemon rind, the lemon juice, and the flour, sprinkle the mixture over the blueberries, and drizzle it with the butter.

Make the batter: Into a bowl sift together the flour, the sugar, the baking powder, and the salt, stir in the egg yolks, the milk, and the butter, and stir the mixture until it is smooth. Spread the batter over the blueberry mixture and bake the cake in a preheated 425° F. oven for 20 to 30 minutes, or until the top is golden brown. Slice the cake and top it with the whipped cream if desired.

*Stewed Tomatoes With Corn*

4 ears of corn or 2 cups thawed frozen corn
1 red bell pepper, chopped fine
½ stick (¼ cup) unsalted butter
6 tomatoes, peeled, quartered, and seeded

Cut the corn kernels from the cobs with a serrated knife and scrape the remaining corn from the cobs with the back of the knife.

In a large skillet cook the bell pepper in 2 tablespoons of the butter over moderately low heat, stirring, for 5 minutes, add the tomatoes, and cook the mixture over moderate heat, stirring, for 5 minutes. Add the corn and the remaining 2 tablespoons butter, cook the mixture over high heat, stirring, for 5 minutes, or until it begins to thicken, and add salt and pepper to taste. Serves 6.

*Vanilla Pound Cake*

2 sticks (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened
1¾ cups sugar
½ teaspoon ground mace, or to taste
¼ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons vanilla
5 large eggs
2 cups all-purpose flour

In a bowl with an electric mixer cream the butter, add the sugar gradually, and beat the mixture until it is fluffy. Add the mace, the salt, the vanilla, and 4 of the eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in the flour a little at a time, add the remaining egg, and combine the mixture well. Pour the batter into a buttered and floured 4-quart tube pan and bake it in a preheated 300° F. oven for 1 hour and 30 minutes, or until a cake tester inserted halfway between the center and the edge comes out clean. Let the cake cool in the pan on a rack for 15 minutes, turn it out on the rack, and let it cool completely.

*Greely Herb Bread*

1 tablespoon active dry yeast
½ cup sugar
⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
2 cups warm milk
½ stick (¼ cup) unsalted butter, melted and cooled
2 large eggs, beaten lightly
1 teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
2 teaspoons crumbled dried sage
4 teaspoons caraway seeds
1 teaspoon salt
6½ to 7½ cups all-purpose flour

In a small bowl proof the yeast in ½ cup warm water with a pinch of the sugar and the ginger for 15 minutes, or until it is foamy. Transfer the mixture to a large bowl and stir in the milk, the butter, the eggs, the nutmeg, the sage, the caraway seeds, the remaining sugar, the salt, and 6½ cups of the flour. Knead the dough on a floured surface, incorporating more of the remaining flour as necessary to keep the dough from sticking, for 8 to 10 minutes, or until it is very smooth and elastic. Form the dough into a ball, put it in a lightly oiled bowl, and turn it to coat it with the oil. Let the dough rise, covered with plastic wrap, in a warm place for 1 hour, or until it is double in bulk.

Punch down the dough, halve it, and form each half into a loaf. Put each loaf in an oiled loaf pan, 9 by 5 by 3 inches, and let the loaves rise, covered with a dish towel, in a warm place for 30 to 45 minutes, or until they are double in bulk. Bake the loaves in the middle of a preheated 350° F. oven for 35 to 40 minutes, or until they sound hollow when the bottoms are tapped. Let the loaves cool in the pans on a rack for 10 minutes, turn them out onto the rack, and let them cool completely. Makes 2 loaves. ❖

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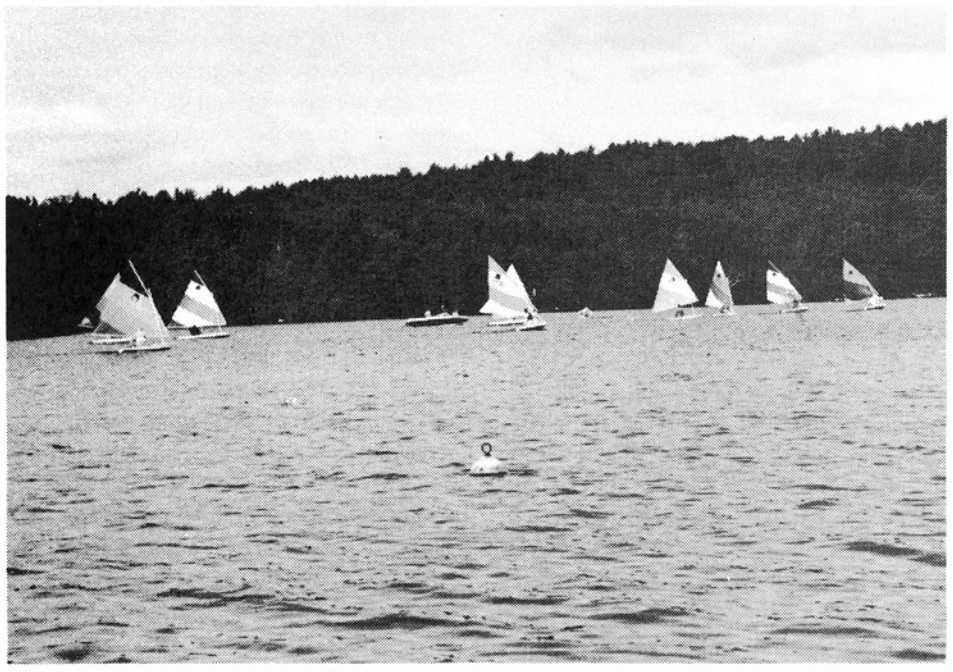
*Dixie Lee Clifford is a free-lance writer living in East Setauket, Long Island.*



**Substantial winds make the 1994 Regatta a great success.**

# LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING SATURDAY, JULY 16, 1994

The Annual Meeting of the Laurel Lake Association was held on Saturday, July 16, 1994 at White's Field in the Laurel Lake Campground in Fitzwilliam, NH.

The meeting was called to order by President Phyllis Chase at 10:45 a.m. at which time she introduced Violet White-Swenor, a long time resident of Fitzwilliam, who spoke on her recollections of Laurel Lake. She also answered questions from our membership.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Don Garland, presented a list of persons to serve as Board of Directors for three year terms. They were Dana Mullette, Susan White, George Graf and Barbara Green. Marguerite Albertini motioned that the Secretary cast one ballot for the entire slate of Directors as presented by the Nominating Committee. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Jack Dumont, Association Secretary, read the minutes of the July 17, 1994 Annual Meeting. On a motion by Bruce Knight and seconded that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read. The motion passed unanimously.

President Phyllis Chase personally thanked Don Garland for the many years of service he had provided to the Association.

Charles Brackett, Chairperson of the Kayak and Canoe Race, presented information on this year's race to take place on Saturday, July 23, 1994.

President Phyllis Chase presented information to the membership on this years Labor Day Sunfish Regatta.

President Phyllis Chase asked the membership if they wished to continue membership in the New Hampshire Lakes Association. On a motion by Marguerite Albertini and seconded that the Association rejoin for the $100.00 membership. On a motion by George Graf that the Association join as a Sustaining Member for $250.00 per year. George Graf motion failed while Marguerite Albertini's motion passed.

Don Treat, Chairman of the Water Testing Committee, reported on the quality of the Lake as compare to previous year's testing.

On a motion by George Graf and seconded that the actions of the Board of Directors for the past year be approved by the general membership. The motion passed unanimously.

Bruce Knight motioned that the meeting be adjourned. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully Submitted, John H. Dumont

**A 1995 Membership Application to the Laurel Lake Association is included with this newsletter. Please mail applications and dues today! If application is missing, write Laurel Lake Association, c/o John H. Dumont, 20 Surrey Lane, Chicopee, MA 01013.**

**All 1995 members will receive a 1996 Ledger.**

# HELPFUL DO'S AND DON'TS FOR HEALTHY PONDS

*The following is a reproduction from the Department of Public Works, Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts Very Important People, Very Important Ponds publication.*

### LANDSCAPING

**DO** leave naturally vegetated areas (BUFFER STRIPS) along pond shores, streambeds, and intermittent streams. If possible, leave at least 25 feet of undisturbed buffer, with more on poor soils or steep slopes.
**DO** plant ground cover, shrubs, trees as part of your yard's landscaping design, rather than just expanses of lawn.
**WHY?** Buffer strips (trees, shrubs, ground cover) intercept runoff and filter sediments and phosphorus from water before it reaches the pond or stream.

**DO** plant deep-routed, woody vegetation along pond shores, and streambeds.
**WHY?** Plant roots stabilize the shoreline, prevent erosion, and absorb nutrients carried by water before they reach the pond or stream.

**DO** preserve natural topography and natural drainage systems.
**WHY?** Natural drainage systems evolve over years and effectively control sediment and phosphorus.

**DO** use fertilizer sparingly and in multiple applications. Hay mulch is preferable.
☛ Note: write to the DPW PARK AND TREE DIVISION for their lawn care program and suggestions. And please remember, when using chemical fertilizers to ***read the label carefully and follow the application instructions.***
**WHY?** Solid, inorganic fertilizers are readily dissolved by water and transported in runoff.

**DO** use all-organic fertilizers, especially if you are an immediate abutter to a pond or stream.
☛ Ask your local garden store about their all-organic products.
☛ For further information, **The Chemical-Free Lawn** by Warren Schultz, published by Rodale Press, Emmaus, PA is recommended by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions.
**WHY?** Keep phosphorus and nitrogen levels low.

**DON'T** use herbicides and pesticides in excess. Avoid their use if possible, especially if you are an immediate abutter to a pond or stream.
**WHY?** Many of these products are toxic and can get into water.

**DON'T** put leaves, branches, or any kind of organic material into the ponds, streams, drainage ditches, or storm drains.

**WHY?** Plant debris adds phosphorus and other nutrients directly to the ponds or streams. Make a compost bin in your backyard -- the rich compost it will yield is a great mulch for your garden.
☛ Composting instructions are available from the DPW PARK AND TREE DIVISION.

### SHORE FRONTAGE: Our Ponds' and Streams' Closest Neighbors

**DO** minimize shoreline alterations, such as removal of vegetation or trees. Shoreline alteration requires Wetlands Protection Committee approval.
**WHY?** Shorelines are generally stable due to years of wind, waves, and ice action. Alteration of the natural shoreline destabilizes the shoreline, increases erosion and impairs fish and wildlife habitat.

**DO** leave trees along the shoreline or streamfront. ***Keep a natural buffer strip.***
**WHY?** Trees and natural cover best protect against shoreline erosion and sedimentation of ponds. Trees take years to grow and only minutes to cut down.
☛ In the early spring the DPW PARK AND TREE DIVISION conducts a tree sale which includes planting!

### SEPTIC SYSTEMS

**DO** conserve water, and give the septic system time to "rest" after heavy use.
**WHY?** The less water you use, the better your septic system will function.
**DON'T** flush strong cleaning agents (drain cleaner, bleach, etc.) into your septic system.
**WHY?** Septic tanks are living systems. Strong cleaners kill the microorganisms that break down the waste.
**DON'T** flush cigarette butts, paper towels, and other materials that should be disposed of otherwise.
**WHY?** These items fill up the system quickly and cannot be broken down by microorganisms.
**DON'T** install or use an in-sink garbage disposal.
**WHY?** Ground up garbage overburdens your septic system and impeded its function.
**DON'T** use commercial products that claim to clean your septic tank without pumping. Septic tanks periodically need to be pumped!
**WHY?** These products can cause clogging of your leaching field and many contain chemicals which can contaminate groundwater.
**DON'T** put paint or chemicals into the septic system.
**WHY?** These hazardous waste products kill microorganisms in the septic tank and contaminate pond water.

### DETERGENTS

**DO** use **non-phosphate** laundry and cleaning detergents. ***All liquid laundry detergents are non-phosphate.***
☛ Please read the labels of DRY DETERGENT carefully (laundry and cleaning products such as Spic & Span) to find out phosphate content.
**WHY?** Phosphate detergents add more phosphorus to the ponds, contributing to plant and algal growth.
**DON'T** wash cars near ponds, streams, or storm drains.
**WHY?** Runoff containing phosphorus will discharge phosphorus directly into the water. Runoff should be diverted to vegetated surfaces and allowed to seep into the ground where phosphorus can be removed, naturally.

### SURFACE RUNOFF FROM ROOFS, DRIVEWAYS, AND LAWNS

**DO** prevent water from running directly into ponds or streams. Detain in depressions or divert flow to flat wooded areas.
**WHY?** Flowing water carries sediment and phosphorus. Detaining or dispersing water allows it to filter into the soil where sediment and phosphorus are filtered out.

### STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

**DO** store hazardous materials in a contained area, in a secure container.
**DON'T** dispose of paint thinners or chemical products on the ground or down the storm drain.
**DISPOSE OF YOUR HAZARDOUS WASTES** at the next scheduled official Hazardous Waste Collection Day sponsored by the DPW.
**WHY?** These hazardous products cannot be removed by soil and can contaminate our ponds.

# HAVE A QUESTION? CALL.....

| TOPICS | WHO TO CALL | PHONE |
|---|---|---|
| Boating Safety | Marine Patrol<br>Safety Services | 1-800-848-4415<br>293-0091 |
| Dock Rules | Wetlands Bureau<br>Water Resources | 271-2147<br>271-3406 |
| Septic | Sub Surface Systems Bureau | 271-3501 |
| Shoreland Protection | Department of Environmental Services (DES) | 271-6876 |
| Water Quality | UNH Cooperative Extension<br>DES Biology Bureau | 862-3848<br>271-3414 |

**John Aufmuth of Putney, Vermont sports a mohawk. Both his canoe and paddle are made of graphite**

# A FEW WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

This March 1995 issue of the Ledger is full of useful information about keeping Laurel Lake beautiful. Many of you sent me articles about phosphorous and exotic weeds showing me your concern about educating our community on how to preserve what we have for future generations. Perhaps these residents were aware of the results from the Water Testing Committee on Page 5. A good example of this concern is the article on Phosphorous and Water Quality written by Barbara Green (also on Page 5). The Ledger is your forum. Continue to send me articles that interest and educate our lake community.

There is something else that we can leave the next generation. The history of who lived on or near Laurel Lake during the end of the 20th century. I've attempted to publish some of this history with my new section "Who's Who on Laurel Lake" (Page 3 and 4). Most of these articles were written by Eve Samuels, our new Co-Editor. A survey was sent out to several active members and an article was written for each person who returned the survey. If you find this section interesting or you wish to participate, write me and let me know.

For years, I couldn't believe how many residents of Laurel Lake were members but not active in the organization. More recently, my thoughts are just the opposite. It's really amazing how many people are willing to contribute those valuable leisure-time hours to the Laurel Lake Association. Suppose you and your family vacationed in Cancun, Mexico for the holidays. You enter the hotel lobby and the first person you meet wants you to join the Gulf of Mexico Association. That afternoon you're asked to be on the Water Testing Committee and come to the Annual Meeting. Some of us have the volunteer spirit in us, some of us don't. Some of us have other motivations for joining community associations. It would be interesting to hear from our readers as to why they choose to be active in the Laurel Lake Association and why they don't. During this winter, special plaques to recognize special efforts and appreciation of service were sent to Don Garland and Milt Posovsky. These two gentlemen epitomize volunteerism at Laurel Lake. Others in our organization have also made significant contributions. If you want to become active in our organization, write Arnie Anderson (address on Page 4). Please continue to send your articles and comments to:

Larry Friedman
c/o Laurel Lake Ledger
265 Freeman Parkway
Providence, RI 02906

# SHORELAND PROTECTION

By Alexander P. Duran

The Shoreland Protection Act (RSA 483-B) took effect in its entirety on July 2, 1994. This Act applies to all land located within 250 feet of the ordinary high water level of publicly owned lakes and impoundments, certain major rivers, estuaries and coastal waters. The State of New Hampshire has listed as State-owned public water 975 water bodies over 10 acres in surface area.

The technical definition of the high water level varies between impoundments, natural lakes, coastal waters and rivers, but is generally the accepted definition of the high water mark. Many of the provisions of the Act took effect on January 1, 1993. These provisions include standards for minimum primary structure setbacks (50 feet ), minimum frontage requirements (150 feet), and septic system leaching field setbacks of 100 feet for soils with shallow impermeable zones and setbacks of 125 feet for very sandy soils. The provision for the 50 foot setback applies only in those towns which have not established a town wide setback from public water bodies. Towns are permitted to establish a setback greater or less than 50 feet.

Two important provisions of the Act were not applied prior to July 1, 1994, however. Building professionals will need to become familiar with these new regulations:

- The Act bans the use of chemical fertilizer other than lime and wood ash on lawn or grass areas of residential properties (commercial/industrial properties are excluded).
- The Act also prohibits clear cutting within 150 feet of the high-water mark where there is currently a natural "Woodland Buffer"

## Woodland Buffer Requirements

The protected "Woodland Buffer" is intended to allow for the clearing of paths from the residence to the water, as well as maintaining or creating views of the water. The maintenance of indigenous vegetation is preferred to the establishment of large grassed areas.

The provisions of RSA 483-B differentiate between undeveloped land and already developed, non-conforming lots. For currently undeveloped shoreland, certain minimum percentages of vegetative cover on the lot must be maintained. The vegetative cover consists of the following four categories of vegetation:

- Ground Cover (any herbaceous plant which normally is less than four feet high);
- Shrub (Any woody plant which normally is less than 20 feet high );
- Sapling (Any woody plant which normally is more than 20 feet high and has a diameter less than 6 inches);
- Tree (Any woody plant which normally grows to more than 20 feet high and has a diameter of more than 6 inches.)

The provisions of RSA 483-B prohibit the removal of more than 50 percent of the basal area of the tree cover and more than 50 percent of the total number of saplings over a 20 year period. The term "basal area" is taken from New Hampshire's Forest Management Regulations. The "basal area" is devised as the cross sectional area of a tree measured at a height of 4 1/2 feet above the ground. This figure is usually expressed by professional foresters in terms of "square feet per acre", For lots where the property owner intends to do a significant amount of forest clearing, a strict interpretation of the "basal area" standard would require an inspection by a professional forester. Several additional standards and exceptions are applicable within the protected "Woodland Buffer" as follows:

- A healthy, well distributed stand of trees, saplings, shrubs and groundcovers and their living, undamaged root systems must be left in place.
- Dead, diseased or fallen trees, saplings, shrubs and groundcovers may be removed. The removal of this vegetation does not count towards the 50 percent maximum removals of trees and saplings specified in the Act.
- All vegetation which is cleared to allow for building construction, accessory structures, septic systems, pathways and parking areas is excluded and does not count towards the 50 percent removal maximum for "basal area" or saplings.
- Stumps and their root systems located within 50 feet of the high water mark must be left intact in the ground
- The Act encourages property owners to plant vegetative species that are beneficial to wildlife.

## Prohibition of Chemical Fertilizers

Nitrogen and especially phosphorus in chemical fertilizers can leach into lakes and promote more rapid eutrophication (excess growth of weeds and algae) than would occur in undeveloped conditions. The Act prohibits the application of fertilizer except for lime and wood ash within the protected shoreland. the intent of this prohibition is to minimize the amount of nitrogen or phosphorus which enters the water body. Property owners are already familiar with lime addition to adjust the pH of acidic so However, wood ash has not generally be used by homeowners on lawns or grassed areas. It is a by-product of wood combus in private electric generating plants that b wood. New Hampshire farmers generally apply wood ash on farm fields at two tim the lime application rate. Wood ash contains some phosphorus as well as a considerable amount of potassium.

At this time, wood ash is available on a commercial basis only to large agricultural users. One of the major distributors of wood ash is BFI/Organics located in Northfield.

Low maintenance grass mixtures are recommended for shorefront lawns. Creeping red fescue is a hardy variety for shaded sites. Reed canary grass is an erosion resistant variety good for shoreline applications. White clover can withstand repeated mowing; it is a hardy ground cover which can be added to the seeding mixture enrich the soil in nitrogen. Soil samples should be sent to the local Cooperative Extension Office for testing of fertility, before determining the optimal rates for liming and/or addition of wood ash. The publication referenced at the end of this article provides valuable guidance on low maintenance groundcovers for shorefront properties. Additional information on the groundcovers can be obtained from a factsheet "Low Maintenance Turfgrass" available from the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension.

## Non-Conforming Lots and Structures

Present and successive property owners of non-conforming undeveloped lots of record may construct single family residences and related facilities. However, the proposed construction must show compliance to the greatest extent feasible. Alterations to pre-existing structures (where the structure currently encroaches up to or beyond the town or state shoreline setback distance) must not extend the structure more than 12 feet towards the shoreline.

## Exemptions

A town may request the DES to exempt all or a portion of the protected shoreland within its boundaries from the provisions of RSA 483-B if the town establishes that special local urbanization conditions exist within the protected shoreland.

All agricultural practices, in accordance with current best management practices, are exempt from the requirements of the Act. Forestry, including water supply reservoir management is exempt from the Act.

A municipality may adopt a shoreland protection ordinance or a shoreland-specific provision in the zoning ordinance that is equal to or more stringent than the requirements of the Act. In this case, administration of the provisions of shoreland protection would be the responsibility of the municipality. The Act does not require any new categories of permits. However, DES will expect compliance with the provisions of the Act when reviewing permits for projects within the protected shoreland area. Permit applications which will be reviewed for consistency with the Act include:

- installation of subsurface disposal systems in shoreland areas;
- construction activities under the jurisdiction of the Wetlands Board.

## Public Education

The DES has only one funded position at this time to enforce the provisions of RSA 483-B. Therefore, heavy reliance will be placed on educating the public through various local or state-wide associations, including lake property owners, builders, landscapers, etc. A 30 page manual with good graphics, titled *"A Guide to Developing and Redeveloping Shorefront Property in New Hampshire"*, has been published by the North Country Resource Conservation & Development Area (RC&D) to aid the property owner in proper shorefront development. A copy can be obtained by writing RC&D at: 103 Main Street, Meredith, NH 03253 or by calling (603) 279-6546

- Alexander P. Duran is an environmental engineer specializing in water quality protection. His areas of expertise include storm water runoff, water quality management and hazardous waste remediation. He is the vice-president of AllWaters Environmental Company in Nashua, NH. He is a graduate of Yale University and holds a doctoral degree in Environmental Engineering Sciences from Harvard University.

# EXOTIC AQUATIC WEEDS
## WHY ARE THEY BAD FOR THE SPORT FISHERIES ?

Ken Warren, DES Exotic Weed Control Program Coodinator, The Sampler - Spring 1994

Aquatic plants such as water lilies, pickerelweed and bladderwort have been growing in New Hampshire lakes and ponds long before the appearance of mankind. Aquatic plants are natural components necessary for the well-being of any aquatic ecosystem as are the algae, fish, turtles, waterfowl and so-on down to the smallest bacterium.

Any veteran fisherman will quickly head towards a weed bed knowing that a largemouth bass or pickerel is lurking among the native plant life. Scientific researchers will tell you that aquatic plants influence both fish distribution and abundance by creating habitats. What this means in a nutshell is that moderate amounts of native aquatic plants provide fish with both food and cover. This relationship has held true for many hundreds of years until the introduction of foreign exotic plants such as milfoil, fanwort and others. These are non-native aquatic plants that have hitch-hiked their way into NH waters over the past twenty years. Many of them come from other parts of the country while some come from Asia, Europe and South America. In most cases they are distributed from one waterbody to the next via boat trailers and boats.

So what's wrong with these exotics other than the obvious interference with pleasure boating, swimming and the unsightly appearance near summer camps?

The first negative impact of exotic weeds is that they will eventually replace and over-populate any niche available to them. The beneficial, diverse native plant life will slowly disappear leaving only the exotics. The ecology of the invaded area changes. This also means in many cases that the sport fishery will be endangered. Initially, the first part of the exotic invasion is good for fishing. However, as the plant density increases the foraging success of predators declines. Larger fish such as largemouth bass hunt poorly in dense foliage. Fish growth will decline within a 2 to 3 year period. The end result is an abundance of stunted fish not worthy of catching by any self-respecting fisherman . The exotic plant life keeps spreading and eventually the entire waterbody may become useless to fishermen.

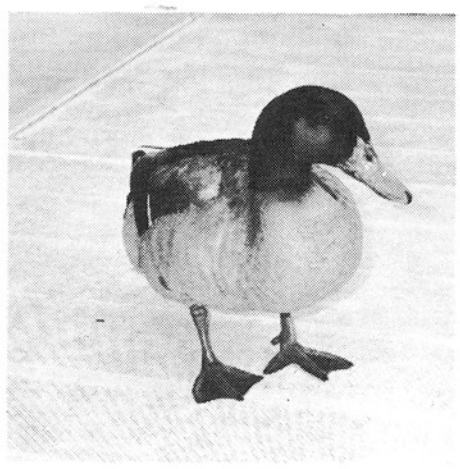
The second negative impact of abundant exotic weeds is the occurrence of partial or entire fish kills due to oxygen depletion. Large amounts of vegetation will decay under the ice and, in the process, use valuable oxygen needed by the fish. This phenomenon usually occurs in small shallow ponds and not in the deep, large lakes.

A third negative impact of the exotics is that they populate valuable spawning habitat for bass and other nest builders. The exotics may grow ten to fifteen feet in vertical height and become so dense that a large fish could not spawn or swim in the area.

Currently there are about nineteen sites in New Hampshire that have exotic weeds. Many of these areas are prime sport fishery habitats. There are also many lakes and ponds that have not fallen prey to these menacing exotics.

**To make an attempt to solve this problem, we need your help!**

The most important thing that you can do is make sure your boat and trailer do not have any type of weeds clinging to them when launching in a lake or pond. Take these plants off and dispose of them on land away from the waterbody. When leaving a lake also take off all the vegetation. We encourage you to make this a part of your fishing routine.



**Harold the Duck, Laurel Lake Mascot, has been missing for several months.**

If you frequent many water waterbodies, we encourage you to watch for new weed growths or abnormal increases in weeds. Report suspicious weed growths to the Department of Environmental Services in Concord (271-3503). Biologists at this agency will gladly check out the situation to determine if exotics are in the lake.

Let's stop this plant invasion so that we can all continue to enjoy fishing in the beautiful lakes and ponds of New Hampshire.

**The Laurel Lake Ledger is printed annually and mailed to members of the Laurel Lake Association free of charge. Please send comments and corrections to: Larry Friedman, 265 Freeman Pkwy., Providence, RI 02906**