



A Little Spot of Heaven

The Laurel Lake Ledger

Laurel Lake Association

32nd Annual Newsletter Spring 2019

THE PRATT CAMP HISTORY

In the cove on the southern shore of Laurel Lake used to stand an ugly duckling of a cottage. No, it did not grow up to be beautiful, but the history and memories that were created there are rich and enduring and, yes beautiful.

The property was purchased by my grandmother, Miriam Pratt, in 1955, as a place where she could look at the mountain. She also felt that the air at Laurel Lake was better than in Cambridge, MA where she lived.

Miriam was born in 1898, in China, of a missionary doctor and his wife. She grew up in China and came to the United States to attend what is now Drexel University. She became a dietician, married and had three daughters. When her youngest was three, her husband died and so she packed up her children and returned home to China. She lived there raising her children until the Japanese invaded the country and took the four of them, and many others, because they were foreigners, prisoner and transported them to an internment camp in Weishien. They were held there, in cramped quarters, usually with not enough food for approximately six months. They were repatriated and brought back to the United States in 1943.



Original Pratt Camp (after many add ons)

Miriam settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts where she rented apartments and rooms to Harvard students and transients. She purchased the property at Laurel Lake, in 1955, and then purchased a small building that I was told was once a chicken coop. I have a letter dated March 8, 1955 from Philip Yon, stating "At last weather permitted to move and set on foundation your little building at Laurel Lake. We did our best to set it level and when the frost gets out in the spring some time when the ground will permit digging, the present supporting post will have to be taken care of permitting a better and permanent foundation. Sincerely, Philip J. Yon".



My grandmother set her bed under the window looking north to the mountain. Over the course of the next 15 years, she marshalled friends and family and built five additions onto that little building including, a kitchen, living room with a fieldstone fireplace, a large screen porch and two large bedrooms. The kitchen even boasted a rooftop deck to enjoy the view of the lake and mountain! The final addition increased the size of her cabin to almost 1500 square feet, but all the years she spent time at Laurel Lake, her bed remained under the window in the small original building.

In 1964, Miriam purchased an abutting house and lot from Chester C. Pope which increased her water frontage.

Over the next many years, she hosted family and friends, including many from her years in China.

In all, there was room for twenty-two guests.

In 1994, my husband, Dana, and I inherited the property from Miriam's daughter, Nancy, who was my aunt, making me the third generation to enjoy Laurel Lake.



Miriam Pratt on her rooftop deck

Regular maintenance had been lax in some years and the house on the road had deteriorated. The decision was made to give the house to the fire department to use for a training burn and with the girl's camp attendees singing camp songs and neighbors and family in attendance, the Fitzwilliam fire department and several neighboring town departments burned it down.

Over the course of the next ten years or so, our family spent every spring, summer and fall playing in and on the water, relaxing, hiking and always enjoying the camp Miriam had built.



New Hodgkins home built behind old camp.



In 2014, Dana and I relocated to Southern New Hampshire and achieved our dream of living on Laurel Lake. The wonderful cabin, built by so many different hands, was not able to be modernized or winterized and so in the spring and summer of 2017, after building a year-round house, Dana, myself and our children (related and not) took the cabin down piece by piece. When you paddle by in the cove you will see that the fieldstone chimney remains.

We love being at the lake year round and appreciate being stewards of this legacy for the next generation.

Kathy Hodgkins

New Hodgkins
home, after old camp
was taken down.
Notice chimney in front.

All photos courtesy of
Kathy Hodgkins

LAUREL LAKE LOGO PRODUCTS

Laurel Lake Logo items will be available for purchase at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 13 and the Canoe/Kayak Race, July 27. We have a variety of shirts, sweatshirts, hats, mugs and much more.

If you'd like to special order an item with the Laurel Lake logo, please contact Bulldog at 603-352-7217.

Thanks!

Jessica Pierannunzi





2019 SUMMER EVENTS—LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

JUNE

- 1st - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis
- 1st - 5:00 PM - The 22nd Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Supper will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis dining hall. Enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors by starting off the summer season at Laurel Lake. Bring your own drinks and a dish to share. Coffee, silverware, and paper goods will be provided.

JULY

- 4th- 9:00 PM - Celebrate the Fourth of July with the traditional lighting of flares around Laurel Lake. Flares are available for purchase at Bottoms Up (Rt. 12), Pottery Works (Rt. 119), at the Samuels' camp (18 Laurel Lane) and the LeClaire's camp (369 West Lake Rd.)
- 13th - 10:30 AM - The **Annual meeting** will be held at White's Field, Laurel Lake Campground, Keene Ave. Our featured topic is “Soak Up the Rain”, focusing on methods to reduce polluting run-off. Our speaker will be Barbara McMillan from NH Dept. of Environmental Services. Association business will also be addressed with a picnic lunch following the meeting. Bring a chair (none provided). Note: in case of terrible weather, the meeting will be moved to the restored train depot building in Fitzwilliam Depot, next to the fire station.
- 13th - 5-7 PM - Concert on the water at Sunrise Rock (west side of lake). Boat on over for some great music.
- 27th- 11:00 AM - The **29th** Annual Canoe/Kayak Race at Sandy Beach. Registration starts at 9:30 AM. Kids race at 11:05 a.m., 1.5 mile Jr/Sr at 11:00, 5 miler at 12:20, 2.5 mile at 12:30 p.m.

AUGUST

- 31st -10:00 AM - The **32nd** Dresser-Friedman Regatta. Rain date is September 1 at 10:00 a.m..

SEPTEMBER

- 7th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis.
- 7th - 5:00 PM - The Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck **Dinner** will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis to celebrate the finale of the 2018 Summer season. Bring a brunch dish to share. Coffee, plates & silverware will be provided. **Note:** this is a change from the past several years, when we have had a brunch. Attendance at the brunches has been significantly declining so we have decided to return to the dinner, in hopes of a better turn-out.

HEAVY RAIN WARNING

We're recommending you avoid going into the lake for 24 to 48 hours after a heavy rain, due to the potential for elevated levels of E. coli. For many folks this might not be an issue but very young, elderly and people with impaired immune systems are at higher risk of illness if exposed. Our and NH's DES water testing results over years have shown that E. coli numbers tend to be elevated at all bodies of water following heavy rain storms, due to contaminated run-off. As our weather becomes more extreme, instances of this are increasing. What we do around the lake can impact this, such as ensuring septic systems are in good shape, maintaining permeable land to reduce the flow of water into the lake, keeping trees and shrubs to slow down water flow, picking up your pet's waste so it's not washing into the lake. Don't forget to come to the annual meeting, July 13, where our speaker will talk about "Soak up the Rain", which addresses this kind of run-off problem.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

I received the annual request from Kathy for the President's Message so it must be time for another addition of the Ledger. The ice left the lake on April 4th and spring must be right around the corner along with the black flies. We will be back at the lake during the first week of May.

The association keeps working to protect the lake and its community all year long and this year is no exception.

Chris Briggs has taken over the Lake Host Program coordination and we have again secured a grant from the NH Lakes Association to help us ensure that the Lake Host Program at the boat ramp continues to monitor boats coming and going to prevent any invasive weeds before they enter our lake. Chris will be looking for volunteer to be trained to keep this essential program staffed.

Our weed watch team and the water testing team are gearing up and will shortly have schedules for these monitoring activities. Volunteers are never turned down and always welcome.

The Board will be meeting in early June to finalize plans for the social activities (annual meeting, canoe race, sail boat race, concert).

Any association is only as strong as the volunteers willing to put in the time and effort to fulfill its mission. Whether you physically help with our ongoing programs or just educate yourself and follow the guidelines for protecting our watershed, your efforts are truly appreciated and help to create the great community that we all call "A Little Spot Of Heaven".

Perry Nadeau, President

Membership Report

(as of 4/18/2019)

Membership Year	2017	2018
Adults	246	255
Children	20	24
Total	266	279
Households	132	139

There are already 31 memberships paid for 2019.

Thank you for your continued support. **Bill Chase, Treasurer**



IN MEMORIAM

Theresa Shotwell, of Millis, MA, passed away in September, 2018. Terry was an executive assistant at Morgan Memorial Goodwill Industries for most of her working career, later working at Roche Brothers. She fell in love with Laurel Lake and spent many summers at her cottage there, sharing it with her daughter and grandchildren. Terry spent a lot of time on Sandy Beach and did a lot of reading, making regular visits to the Fitzwilliam Library for a new selection of reading material. Terry was also an opera lover which she listened to while doing crocheting or knitting. She leaves behind her daughter Dorothy Hobson, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Ann (White) Pelkey, of Fitzwilliam, NH passed away in October, 2018 at the age of 82. Ann and her husband Cal operated the Laurel Lake Campground for 4 decades and managed what is known as ‘White’s Grove’, land rented by dozens of camp owners. She is a descendent of the White family which owned this land since the 1700s. Ann also worked for 33 years at Miniature Precision Bearings in Keene, NH. Ann was very active in the town and volunteered with the Fitzwilliam Ambulance & Fire Department and the Fitzwilliam Garden Club. A long time member of the Laurel Lake Association, Ann and Cal generously donated the use of the campground field to the Association for its annual meetings. Ann leaves behind her husband Cal Linkenhoker, her sons Michael & Lenny Pelkey, step-daughter Amanda Morales and step-son Andy Linkenhoker, five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Michael Moore, 59, of Fitchburg, MA passed away in November, 2018. Mike worked in the auto body trade for forty years and won awards at auto shows for his work restoring classic cars. In his younger years, Mike spent summers at his family’s camp in White’s Grove and, as an adult, found peace there on his visits. Mike leaves behind his three sisters, Nancy Williams, Maureen Moore and Patricia Cormier, seven nieces & nephews and ten great nieces & nephews.

LOON UPDATES

Laurel Lake continues to be graced by those lovely Loons, which make us all so happy to be at the lake. The good news is that the Loon Preservation Committee reported 309 breeding pairs in New Hampshire in 2018, surpassing 300 pairs for the first time. The bad news is that lead poisoning from ingested lead fishing tackle is the leading known cause of adult loon mortality in New Hampshire, accounting for 44% of all documented adult loon deaths between 1989 and 2017. These deaths are preventable if fishermen and fisherwomen eliminated their lead tackle. Lead sinkers weighing one ounce or less have been illegal in New Hampshire since 2006 and as of June 1, 2016, lead fishing jigs have been made illegal. Handling of lead can cause lead poisoning so you probably don’t want to be using it or allowing your children or grandchildren to handle it. If you have old tackle tucked away at your camp or can’t remember the last time you bought new tackle, now is the time to do it: for you and for the loons! And, don’t just toss it in the trash. The lead can leach into ground water so check your bait & tackle shop about accepting old gear or dispose of it properly at your transfer station.

Kathy Olson



Photo courtesy of the Loon Preservation Committee, Fall 2018 Newsletter.



HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018 LAKE TESTING RESULTS

The full water test report from the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program is included in this Ledger. Laurel Lake is classified as oligotrophic, which is the highest of the three trophic categories, based on dissolved oxygen (DO), chlorophyll-a, transparency, and plant growth. Our test results are compared, in this report, with results of NH waterbodies in the same category.

The Laurel Lake “report card” is the table, with the highlighted colors on the first page of the report (page 8 of the Ledger). Our 2018 results for these parameters were similar to the 2017 results. Average total phosphorous levels in the upper water layer increased slightly from 2017, but were good and relatively stable since monitoring began. The levels were much lower than the state median for oligotrophic lakes. Growth of algae, as measured by chlorophyll-a level, was good, and slightly less than the threshold for oligotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis shows significantly decreasing (improving) levels since monitoring began. Chlorophyll, too, is less than the state median for oligotrophic lakes.

Average water clarity (transparency) measurements improved, compared to 2017, and were higher than the state median for oligotrophic lakes. The bad news is that the historical trend analysis shows that the clarity is significantly decreasing (worsening) since monitoring began. Stormwater runoff from shoreland properties, roads, and driveways flush nutrients and silt into the lake. Wave action from severe weather stirs up the sediment. A good way to stop the decline in transparency, is to reduce stormwater runoff by stabilizing the shoreline. Come to the Laurel Lake Association Annual Meeting on July 13th to learn how to soak up the rain. This year’s speaker will be coming from “Soak up the Rain New Hampshire” at NHDES. Information at: www.soaknh.org.

For help reading the full VLAP report go to: https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2018/documents/how-to-read-your-report.pdf

Thank you to the 2018 sampling team: Phyllis Lurvey, Perry Nadeau, Beth Samuels, Barbara Schechter, and Rachel Shrives.

Barbara Green, Chair, Water Testing Committee

VOLUNTEERING

Yes, we’re always haunting you to volunteer for Association programs but, as Perry says in his President’s Address, the Association is only as strong as the volunteers who help put in the time to fulfill our mission of protecting our beautiful lake. Many, many thanks to the folks who already contribute their time - in many cases, volunteering over decades! We always can use extra help with the canoe race (contact Charley Brackett, whitewater-wizard3@gmail.com), the Lake Host program (contact Chris Briggs, chrisbriggs@gmail.com), weed watching (contact Beth Samuels at Evsamuels1@yahoo.com), water testing (contact Barbara Green, blmgreen52@gmail.com), the annual meeting set-up & picnic (contact Jack Dumont, Dumont@charter.net). Even a few hours of your time in the summer can make a big difference to our programs. Thank you!



Volunteer Lake Assessment Program Individual Lake Reports
LAUREL LAKE, FITZWILLIAM, NH

MORPHOMETRIC DATA

Watershed Area (Ac.):	768	Max. Depth (m):	13.4	Flushing Rate (yr ⁻¹):	0.4	Trophic Classification	Known Exotic Species
Surface Area (Ac.):	155	Mean Depth (m):	6.1	P Retention Coef:	0.78	Year	Trophic class
Shore Length (m):	3,500	Volume (m ³):	3,826,000	Elevation (ft):	1099	2006	OLIGOTROPHIC

The Waterbody Report Card tables are generated from the DRAFT 2018 305(b) report on the status of N.H. waters, and are based on data collected from 2008-2017. Detailed waterbody assessment and report card information can be found at www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/index.htm

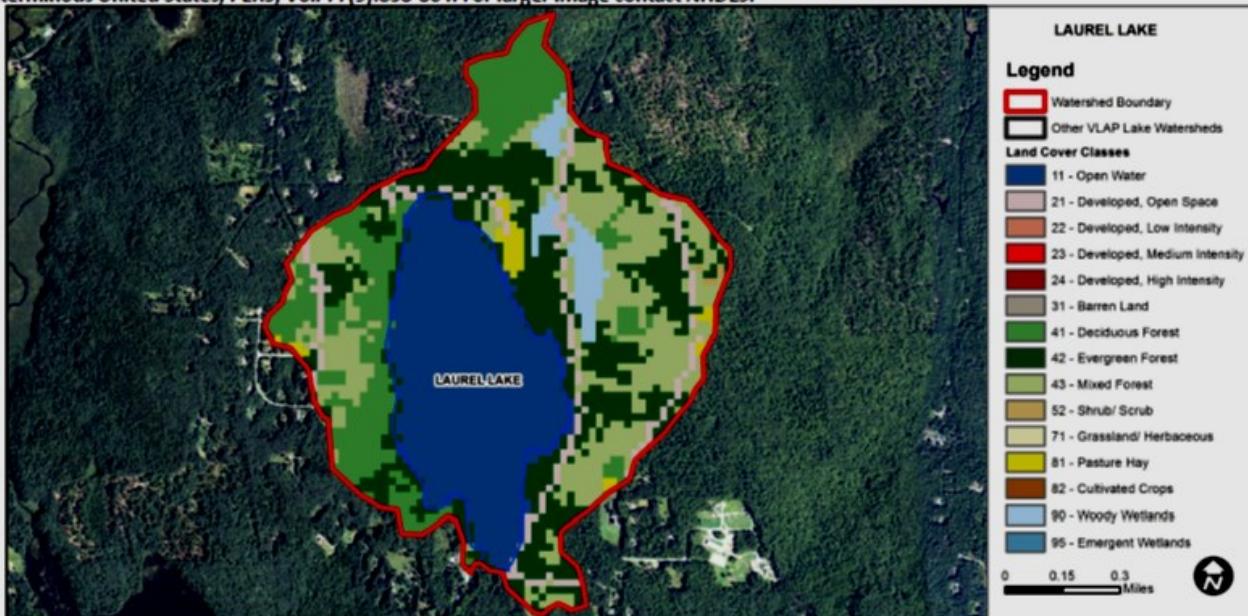
Designated Use	Parameter	Category	Comments
Aquatic Life	Phosphorus (Total)	Good	Sampling data is better than the water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.
	pH	Bad	Data periodically exceed water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter by a large margin.
	Oxygen, Dissolved	Encouraging	Limited data for this parameter predicts water quality standards or thresholds are being met; however more data are necessary to fully assess the parameter.
	Dissolved oxygen saturation	Encouraging	Limited data for this parameter predicts water quality standards or thresholds are being met; however more data are necessary to fully assess the parameter.
	Chlorophyll-a	Good	Sampling data is better than the water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.
Primary Contact Recreation	Escherichia coli	Good	Sampling data commonly meet water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.
	Chlorophyll-a	Very Good	All sampling data meet water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.

BEACH PRIMARY CONTACT ASSESSMENT STATUS

LAUREL LAKE - TOWN BEACH	Escherichia coli	Good	Sampling data commonly meet water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.
LAUREL LAKE - CAMP FLEUR DE LIS BEACH	Escherichia coli	Very Good	All sampling data meet water quality standards or thresholds for this parameter.

WATERSHED LAND USE SUMMARY

Fry, J., Xian, G., Jin, S., Dewitz, J., Homer, C., Yang, L., Barnes, C., Herold, N., and Wickham, J., 2011. Completion of the 2006 National Land Cover Database for the Conterminous United States, PERS, Vol. 77(9):858-864. For larger image contact NHDES.



Land Cover Category	% Cover	Land Cover Category	% Cover	Land Cover Category	% Cover
Open Water	28.0	Barren Land	0	Grassland/Herbaceous	0
Developed-Open Space	5.42	Deciduous Forest	17	Pasture Hay	1.46
Developed-Low Intensity	0	Evergreen Forest	23.68	Cultivated Crops	0
Developed-Medium Intensity	0	Mixed Forest	20.99	Woody Wetlands	3.44
Developed-High Intensity	0	Shrub-Scrub	0.17	Emergent Wetlands	0

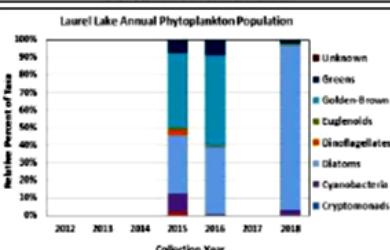
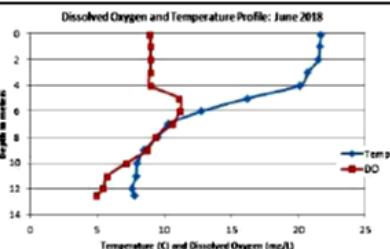


VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL LAKE REPORTS LAUREL LAKE, FITZWILLIAM 2018 DATA SUMMARY

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Lake nutrient levels and algal growth have generally decreased since monitoring began and we hope to see this continue! Epilimnetic pH levels have been higher (better) in recent years and may be a result of NH's surface waters recovering from the impacts of historical acid precipitation. For more information read NHDES' "Acid Rain Status and Trends Report" at www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/index.htm. Continue monitoring water color to evaluate how it relates to turbidity and water clarity. Keep up the great work!

OBSERVATIONS (Refer to Table 1 and Historical Deep Spot Data Graphics)

- **CHLOROPHYLL-A:** Chlorophyll levels were low in June, decreased slightly in July, and increased in August. Average chlorophyll level remained stable with 2017, was less than the state median, and slightly less than the threshold for oligotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) chlorophyll levels since monitoring began.
- **CONDUCTIVITY/CHLORIDE:** Epilimnetic (upper water layer), Metalimnetic (middle water layer), Hypolimnetic (lower water layer), and Keene Ave. Trib. Before Lake conductivity and/or chloride levels were within an average range for NH lakes and approximately equal to the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates stable epilimnetic conductivity levels since monitoring began.
- **COLOR:** Apparent color was measured in the epilimnion and indicates the lake water was lightly tea colored, or light brown. The water color increased slightly from June to July and remained stable in August.
- **E. COLI:** North Beach, South Beach and Swim Club E. coli levels were low and much less than the state standard of 88 cts/100 mL for public beaches. Keene Ave. Trib. Before Lake E. coli levels were elevated and greater than the state standard of 406 cts/100 mL for surface waters in July following a period of dry conditions prior to a storm event resulting in low flows. E. coli levels returned to a low range in August following a storm event resulting in higher flows. Keene Ave. Trib. In Lake E. coli levels were low in August.
- **TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Epilimnetic and Metalimnetic phosphorus levels remained low from June through August. Average epilimnetic phosphorus increased slightly from 2017 and was much less than the state median and the threshold for oligotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable epilimnetic phosphorus levels since monitoring began. Hypolimnetic phosphorus levels increased from a low to moderate range as the summer progressed. Keene Ave. Trib. Before Lake phosphorus levels were elevated, however were within an average range for that station.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** Transparency measured without the viewscope (NVS) was average in June, increased (improved) in July, and then decreased in August likely due to wave conditions. Average NVS transparency increased (improved) from 2017 and was higher (better) than the state median. However, historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (worsening) transparency since monitoring began. Viewscope transparency (VS) was higher (better) than NVS transparency in June and July and decreased to a lower (worse) range in August, again likely due to wave conditions.
- **TURBIDITY:** Epilimnetic turbidity levels were slightly elevated in July potentially due to a significant storm event following a period of dry conditions. Metalimnetic, Hypolimnetic, Keene Ave. Trib. Before Lake turbidity levels fluctuated within a low range.
- **pH:** Epilimnetic and Metalimnetic pH levels were within the desirable range 6.5-8.0 units, however epilimnetic pH levels have historically fluctuated below the desirable range. Historical trend analysis indicates stable epilimnetic pH levels since monitoring began. Hypolimnetic and Keene Ave. Trib. Before Lake pH levels were slightly acidic and less than desirable.



NH Water Quality Standards: Numeric criteria for specific parameters. Results exceeding criteria are considered a water quality violation.

Chloride: > 230 mg/L (chronic)

E. coli: > 88 cts/100 mL – public beach

E. coli: > 406 cts/100 mL – surface waters

Turbidity: > 10 NTU above natural level

pH: between 6.5-8.0 (unless naturally occurring)

Station Name	Table 1. 2018 Average Water Quality Data for LAUREL LAKE - FITZWILLIAM									
	Alk. mg/l	Chlor-a ug/l	Chloride mg/l	Color pcu	Cond. us/cm	E. coli mpn/100ml	Total P ug/l	Trans. m	Turb. ntu	pH
							NVS	VS		
Epilimnion	4.4	2.81	9	48	46.7		5	5.62	5.65	6.83
Metalimnion					47.5		7		0.48	6.69
Hypolimnion					48.0		12		0.68	6.04
Keene Ave. Trib. Before Lake					49.3	555	36		0.80	5.34
Keene Ave. Trib. In Lake						10				
North Beach						32				
South Beach						17				
Swim Club						11				

NH Median Values: Median values for specific parameters generated from historic lake monitoring data.

Alkalinity: 4.5 mg/L

Chlorophyll-a: 4.39 mg/m³

Conductivity: 42.3 uS/cm

Chloride: 5 mg/L

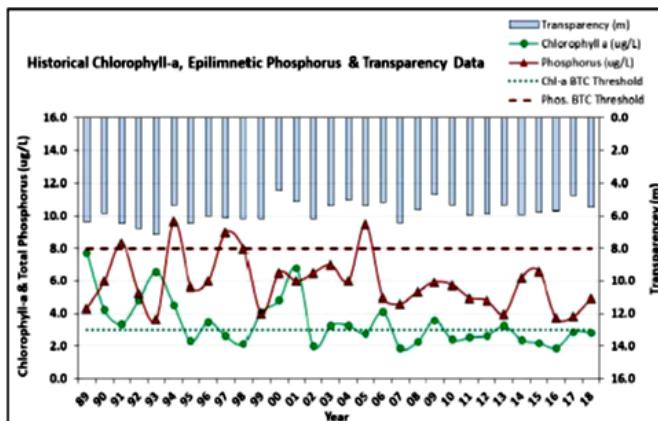
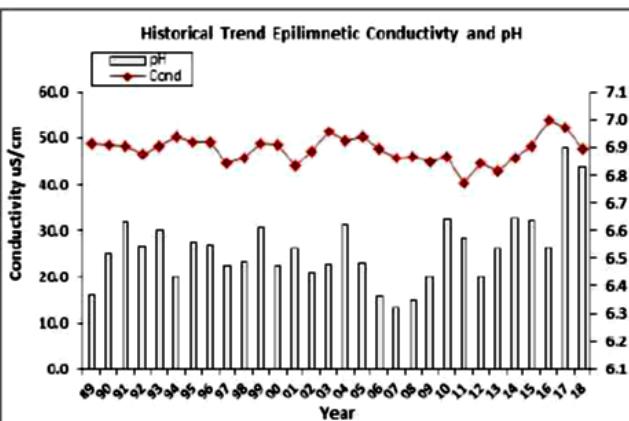
Total Phosphorus: 11 ug/L

Transparency: 3.3 m

pH: 6.6

HISTORICAL WATER QUALITY TREND ANALYSIS

Parameter	Trend	Explanation	Parameter	Trend	Explanation
Conductivity	Stable	Trend not significant; data show low variability.	Chlorophyll-a	Improving	Data significantly decreasing.
pH (epilimnion)	Stable	Trend not significant; data show low variability.	Transparency	Worsening	Data significantly decreasing.
			Phosphorus (epilimnion)	Stable	Trend not significant; data moderately variable.





LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Greetings from the south end of old “South Pond”! For many years, Barbara Brooks has lead our Lake Host Program and I hope that I can be as successful in helping to coordinate the program for our lake association and to educate the boaters of our beautiful Laurel Lake on how they can help keep our lake clean and healthy.

We are already welcoming fisherman and their boats just days after “ice out”. The most common way that invasive aquatic plants and animals could be spread to our lake would be by plant fragments or animal larvae on boats and trailers from infested waterbodies. The plan is to have our paid “Lake Host” stationed at the town boat ramp, scheduled for peak boating weekends and days, and provide additional coverage through volunteers.

Working in conjunction with NH Lakes, who provides a grant based around the number of boats and volunteer hours, the paid “Program Assistant” position is made available for us to better provide information about the Clean, Drain & Dry method for aquatic invasive species prevention. NH Lakes is reporting great success in slowing the spread of invasive species in recent years but still needs local lake associations’ support.

We continue to need volunteers to provide matching hours coverage at the boat ramp so please consider donating a few hours a month during the summer to being a “Lake Host”. Online or In-Person training is provided and it can be a pleasant way to spend time, meeting new people and enjoying the water. Looking forward to seeing you all arrive over the next months!

Christopher Briggs - Lake Host Program Coordinator

To volunteer, please contact Chris at 603-852-1480, chrisbriggs@gmail.com

If you have feedback on the Laurel Lake Ledger or would like to submit an article, please contact Kathy Olson at KandSOLson@gmail.com. I am always in need of a lead story and photos from lake events or just life around the lake. Thanks!



Perry Nadeau & his assistant doing water testing.
Photo courtesy of Barbara Green.



Canoe Race: coin search; hot dog cooking thanks to George Spaulding & Julie Brockleman; Beckett Gardner, winner of youngest participant award, Tug O War. Photos courtesy of Jeannette & Allison Gardner.



Above: Viking Paddlers: Amy Thornton & Pat Lizak. Photo courtesy of Charley Brackett

Left: Weed watchers Bobby Williams, Brad & Catherine Greeley. Photo courtesy of Ned Greeley



2018 WEED SURVEY REPORT

During the summer of 2018, our group of “weed watchers” surveyed the lake three times as has been the practice the last few years. Our goal is to complete each survey approximately by the last week of June, July and August in order to hopefully cover the growing season for the variety of weed growth we find in the lake. While our group of weed watchers reported seeing the normal native plant types, we are glad to report that, as far as we have found, no exotic or invasive weed types were identified in Laurel Lake.

The July survey found somewhat higher concentrations of pipewort in some areas of the lake. A couple of weed watcher took samples of weed specimens that looked different from what they had observed in prior years. These were identified as bladderwort and a variety of pond weeds, both of which are native and non-invasive. August brought us excessive amounts of rain. The sediment washed into the lake, along with the warm temperatures, promoted the growth of gelatinous green algae, particularly in the shallow areas. There also seemed to be more sightings of various types of pond weeds this summer. The August survey found numerous bryozoans growing on dock legs, submerged branches and even on the stem of pipeworts. Bryozoans are freshwater aquatic invertebrates, not hazardous to human health and not indicating a pollution problem.

Our faithful group of weed watchers, along with a couple of new participants, are: Linda Anderson, Charley Brackett, Gail Connelly, Ken DeBlieu, Barbara Dumont, Catherine, Brad, Monica and Ned Greeley, Barbara Green, Tricia LeClaire, Mary Ann Perry, Phyllis Lurvey, Roberta Nadeau, Lily Pierannunzi, Cat Strahan and Bobby Williams. As always, we welcome anyone interested in participating in these weed surveys.

As stated in our report for the past couple of years, we encourage lake residents not to transplant any plant types from another lake or garden shop into Laurel Lake or near the water’s edge. Lake residents are also encouraged to report any new different ‘weed’ or plant growth they find.

Submitted by Weed Watch Co-Chairs: Beth Samuels (evsamuels1@yahoo.com) and Bill Townsend (wtownsend68@comcast.net).



Pictures of bryozoans that Tricia LeClaire took this past summer. One is of a bryozoan out of the water, and two are of bryozoans growing in the water on the stems of pipeworts and water lily.



Laurel Lake Association Treasurer's Report 2018

	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Income</u>
Logo items	1820.45	\$2716.40
Membership	-----	2565.00
Flares	460.00	650.00
Canoe race	1713.18	1744.00
Organization dues	430.00	
Water testing	320.00	
Ledger	782.74	
Annual mtg.	364.30	
Regatta	198.82	
Postal fees	54.00	
Meeting supplies	8.49	
Concert on the lake	150.00	
Lake Host program	98.20	
Donations	20.00	600.00
<u>Interest on checking acct.</u>		<u>1.29</u>
Totals	\$6412.26 out	\$8276.69 in
Difference of \$1864.43 profit		
Checking account: Beginning Balance	\$6434.56	
	+ <u>1864.43</u> profit	
	\$8298.99	
	\$8298.99	
	-4400.00 transfer to CDs	
Ending Balance	\$3898.99	
	\$3898.99 Checking account	
	503.46 Savings account	
	+ <u>27371.66</u> CDs (includes new CDs of \$4400 from checking)	
Total Assets	\$31,774.11	

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeannette Gardner, Treasurer

**2018 - 2019 OFFICERS**

Perry Nadeau - President

Kathy Olson - Vice President

Liz Young - Secretary

Jeannette Gardner - Treasurer

Greg Gardner - Secretary

Calvin Perry - Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Dumont	2019	Bill Chase	2020
Craig Heatley	2019	Jessica Pierannunzi	2020
Jon LeClaire	2019	Barbara Green	2021
Terry Silverman	2019	Bill Samuels	2021
Charley Brackett	2020	Bill Townsend	2021
Barbara Brooks	2020	Tom White	2021

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Kathy Olson	Editor Laurel Lake Ledger
Barbara Green	Water Testing Committee
Beth Samuels	Weed Survey Committee
Barbara Dumont	Nominating
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charley Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Bruce Hill	Commodore Dresser-Friedman Sunfish Regatta
Jessica Pierannunzi	LLA Logo Products - T & Sweatshirts & Hats
Bill Chase	Membership
Chris Briggs	Lake Host Program
Terry Silverman	4th of July Celebration Flares
John Fitzwilliam	Swim Club Representative
Perry Nadeau	Concert on the Lake

Visit our Web Site at: www.LaurelLakeAssn.com

AND NOW ON FACEBOOK - SEARCH FOR LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION



Sorry You Missed It....

On Sunday, September 9, 2018, the lake association hosted its annual brunch to unofficially close the summer season. We had a disappointingly small attendance. Thank you to those who did attend. We had great food and comradery.

As we finished eating and cleaning up, someone suggested we go for a walk. And we did. Liz Young, a former Camp Fleur de Lis director and a former camper, led us on a tour of the camp grounds and buildings and its many “nooks and crannies”. What a wonderful experience! We had no idea that the camp covered so much territory. The camp is over a hundred years old and during its lifetime it has acquired buildings, torn down dilapidated buildings, upgraded or refurbished buildings - all to make a great and memorable experience for the campers, many of whom are now counselors or had become counselors in the past.

I only regret we did not have a video camera to record this terrific tour and its rich history. Liz's knowledge of Camp Fleur de Lis was most impressive and I, personally, want to thank her for the tour and arranging for us to use the camp's dining room (a beautiful building, by the way) and hope we have a better attendance in the spring when we again see and greet everyone to enjoy our “Little Piece of Heaven”.

Submitted by Catherine Main, Association Member since 1977 (and former Board of Director)

[Editor's note: the Association Officers and Board members also have noticed the decline in attendance at the brunches and we have changed the brunch back to a pot luck supper to end the season. As noted on the calendar on page 4, the pot luck will be held Saturday, Sept. 7, starting at 5 p.m. We certainly hope that many more people will attend.]

2018 Regatta



Bear at Charley Brackett's camp, 2018. Photo from Charley.



2018 CANOE/KAYAK RACE RESULTS

[Category & Winner]

3/4 Mile Children's Race:

Girl's Canoe: Fiona Nash & Elizabeth McGee

Boy's Kayak: Austin Laurake

Girl's Kayak: Kaden Laurake

Girl's Stand Up Paddleboard: Beatrix Rioux

1.5 Mile:

Jr/Sr Canoe: Joe & Mason Pelkey

Stand Up Paddleboard (ages 17 and up): Tom Walton

2.5 Mile:

Men's Canoe: Dave & Dan Arcaro

Women's Canoe: Lindsey Malchow & Jamie Barnhill

Mixed Canoe: Amy Thornton & Pat Lizak

Solo Canoe: Richard Malchow

Jr/Sr Canoe: Jack Erali & Dave Dugas

Men's Kayak: Randy Hull

Women's Kayak: Jean Fountain

Tandem Kayak: Bruce Hill & Ethan Hill

5 Mile:

Racing Canoe: Sandy Harris & Gus Madore

Solo Canoe: Joe Lukaszewicz

Men's Kayak: Adam Beyer

Tug 'O' War Winners:

Dan Arcaro & Nicholas Deyo

Runners Up: Angela Michelson & Conor Olejarz

Youngest Participant: Beckett Gardner, age 3; **Oldest Participant:** Gary Deyo, age 77

There were 48 boats and 90 participants in the races, including 21 children.

Results submitted by **Charley Brackett**



2018 DRESSER-FRIEDMAN REGATTA

The morning of the race looked perfect with a breeze blowing from the southwest. A triangular modified Olympic course was set and buoys were placed in the lake to try to avoid the calm spots along the shore. Kyle Freeman, Mike King, Tom White, and Jessica and Lucy Pierannunzi represented the north end of the lake. The south end was represented by Jeff Prunier, defending champ Patrick McNamara and Chris Briggs; the west side was represented by Matt Poulin, and the east side by Perry Price for a total of nine boats. The flotilla assembled at the start/finish line located on the west side of the lake.



Photos courtesy of Nicci King

The race started at 1:00 pm just as the wind quit. After rounding the first mark positioned off Spicer's point, the boats had divided into three groups of three boats each. There were some changes in position within each group as the boats tacked back and forth. The race continued to the next buoy just opposite the swim club, proceeding to the third buoy south of sunken island, then headed back to the first buoy. The final stretch saw very isolated breezes as the boats raced back to the island mark then the start/finish line.



In the end Patrick McNamara led, winning his third regatta in a row at 1:02. Second place was Matt Poulin with a time of 1:04 and Jeff Prunier rounding out the top three at 1:12. After being becalmed for a while, Chris Briggs finished with a time of 1:27, Tom White at 1:37, Kyle Freeman 1:50, Jessica and Lucy Pierannunzi 2:06, Mike King 2:18 and the Perry Price boat retired after one lap.

The after party took place at Patrick McNamara's camp. Commodore Bruce Hill handed out plaques for the first three finishers. Tom White presented past Commodore Rob Prunier a tee shirt with the Past Commodore's flag

and Dresser Freeman Regatta Logo as thanks for his work on races over many years. Patrick received a first place tee shirt for his win.

Submitted by Tom White





Elliot Institute Concerts on the Fitzwilliam Common Summer 2018

July 11th: “Studio 2 - The Beatles”: A Beatles tribute band; a four piece band that will perform all of your “Fab 4” song hits.

July 18th: “The 20th Century Pops Band”; a six piece band playing your “big band” favorites.

July 25th: “Tom Foolery Band”: A 7 piece band playing rock, big band, and jazz music...a Cheshire County Favorite.

Aug 1st: “The Stockwell Brothers”, home-grown, blue-grass, country music.

Aug 8th: TBA co-sponsored with Fitzwilliam Friends of the Library

Aug 15th: “Tattoo” (with Walden Whitham): an acoustic five-piece band performing American roots Rock ‘N Roll...a repeat favorite.

All performances will be from 7:00-8:30 pm on the Common. Bring a chair or a blanket. In case of inclement weather, the venue will be upstairs in the Town Hall.

Support Our Local Businesses!

Activities of the Laurel Lake Association have been supported over the years by donations of goods and services from many of our local merchants and families. The annual canoe/kayak race has a popular raffle with many of the prizes donated from local businesses. A special ‘Thank You’ to Camp Fleur de Lis who generously provide their dining room to us for the Pot Luck events and board meetings and to Laurel Lake Campground for use of their field and tent for the annual meeting. Say ‘thanks’ to these merchants and organizations for their support by giving them your business:

Bottoms Up

Bullock’s Farm Stand

Ed’s Crossroad Pizza

Flip Side Grill

Fitzwilliam Inn

Pottery Works

Clearwater Pool

A special Thank You to Ed’s Crossroad Pizza for the very generous donation of a bicycle, in addition to other prizes, and to the many lake families who were so generous in donation prizes.



2019 Laurel Lake Association Membership Form

Membership Dues: \$10.00 for Adult Memberships and \$5.00 for children under 18

Laurel Lake Ledger: Each Household of paid-up members will receive a copy of the Laurel Lake Ledger via US Mail Delivery or E-mail (please select delivery method below)

Members

Last Name	First Name	Membership Type (Adult or Child under 18)	Amount A/\$10.00, C/\$5.00
_____	_____	Adult	Child _____
_____	_____	Adult	Child _____
_____	_____	Adult	Child _____
_____	_____	Adult	Child _____
_____	_____	Adult	Child _____
If you wish, you may also include an additional donation to help support the Association		Donation Amount	_____
			Total _____

Permanent Address

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Summer Address

same as above

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

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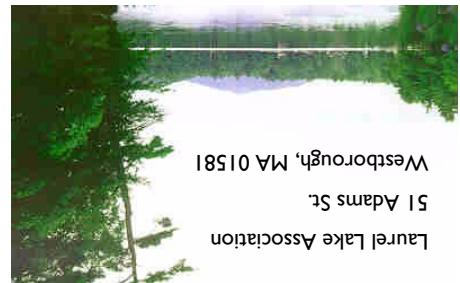
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*All applications and checks should be mailed to: Bill Chase
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51 Adams Street
Westborough, MA 01581

Thank you for your contribution

Visit us on the world wide web at <http://www.LaurelLakeAssn.com>



Laurel Lake Association

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