



A Little Spot of Heaven

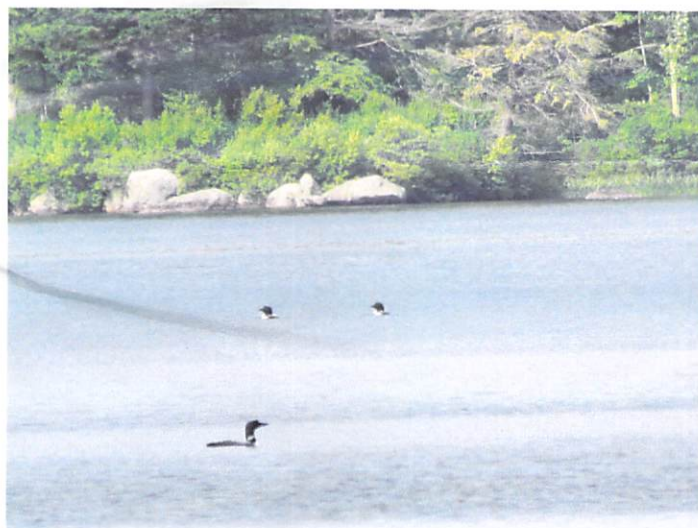
The Laurel Lake Ledger

Laurel Lake Association

27th Annual Newsletter Spring 2014

THE BIRDS OF LAUREL LAKE – SUMMER, 2013

As the summer of 2013 began at Laurel Lake the threat of the former Webb Hill Quarry being re-opened became a concern for many residents in the abutting area. There were a variety of issues that caused concerns. Lake quality was one major issue. Water run-off and drainage issues were other concerns. Air quality and the effects of blasting the dimension stone and the potential issue of dust created by the removal of the existing granite became other factors to be considered. The final concern was the possible issues that might face the existing bird life that made Laurel Lake home, as well the surrounding forests in the area. So as the summer of 2013 began, the residents of Laurel Lake and the local area faced an unknown future concerning possible mining operations at the former Webb Hill quarry. In the meantime, the birds of the area had no such concerns. For them, life continued on from day to day.



Bird life at the Lake is always on-going and can continue non-stop for twenty four hours at a time. The summer of 2013 was no exception. The fishing Loons at the Lake would often start calling to each other from midnight until the early hours of dawn as the Sun rose over the lake. This is generally considered to be the mating Loons attempt to locate where each other is and to have a general idea where their partner is on the lake. Often, throughout the daylight and evening hours the birds are constantly in touch with each other. As most people can attest, there is no sound like two Loons communicating with one and another. As the sun rose around 5:30 am, the Loons soon located resting areas on the Lake and quieted down for the morning.

However, the loons' silence was brief as a gathering of three young Pileated woodpeckers (2 males and one female) began foraging dead pine limbs which contained many nests of

bugs for the hungry woodpeckers. In particular, there seemed to be certain dead pine limbs that the birds gravitated to. By the end of June, the average size of the three young pileated woodpeckers was 8 to 9 inches long. By mid-July, their size was close to twelve inches long. The Pileated woodpecker is the largest woodpecker (16 inches) found in the Northeast woodlands. They are common at Laurel Lake. The young birds were interesting to watch as they continued to devour the nests of bugs which went on from the very early hours of dawn until early afternoon. Given their size and rate of growth, the young woodpeckers are quite loud and noisy. By early August, the birds had matured and had flown into the nest to begin their lives.

As the summer continued, a big surprise happened in August when it was evident that two Ospreys were constantly fishing at Laurel Lake in mid to late afternoons. Osprey are not uncommon any longer in the interior of New England. The reason is that the species' coastal habitat has expanded rapidly and the birds have been forced to move inland to find more open territory. Still their daily fishing expeditions indicated that an active nest was nearby. Judging by their approach to the Lake, they flew from the East and headed over the Swim club and down towards the girl's camp. From there, they would fish along the eastern shore, disappear behind the surrounding hills and then re-appear back at the south and begin the same pattern all over again. At this point, all the evidence is that the nest was just East of Brigham Hill Road (North). This would give the birds access to Laurel Lake, Sportsman Pond, Collins Pond, and Sip Pond.



The most spectacular observation for the 2013 Summer season was the consistent mature Bald Eagle sightings by a variety of Lake residents from early May through mid-August. Most likely, the bird was a mature male gathering food for the fledglings and the female. The suspected nesting area was in the Royalston area. The bird's flight pattern was consistent: the approach was always from over the South point of Laurel Lake. At this point the bird would fly North on either side of the lake. There was also heightened awareness of nesting Bald Eagle activities by both the Wildlife agencies of New Hampshire and Massachusetts. The Mass Wildlife agency, in 2013, began to identify and locate resident Eagle nests in the state. The new emphasis was on resident birds and not migrant birds, making the count more realistic. The most current Bald Eagle count was just partially completed in early May, 2014. The new count includes a newly discovered resident nest in Royalston just South of Laurel Lake. This new nest has been authenticated by the Division of Mass Wildlife Department. With this new evidence and the location of the nest, this would account for the variety of sightings in the Spring and Summer of 2013. At this point, it would be wise to keep an eye on the sky overhead and check on possible consistent fly-overs by a mature Bald Eagle. Given the harsh winter that began in November and which has remained unabated through early May so far, the birth of new chicks may be delayed for a three to four week period. Hopefully, all will be well for this year's birds.

Submitted by Steve Olson



New boat landing, photo from Phyllis Lurvey

Annual Meeting 2013



Ice hockey game at north end of Laurel Lake, photo from Ken DeBlieu



Kudos to Laurel Lake Association

At our 2013 annual meeting our keynote speaker was Andrea LaMoreaux, Vice President of Education & Communication, from the New Hampshire Lakes Association. Andrea gave a great presentation on the Lakes Host program and the shoreline protection act. After the meeting Andrea sent us a letter with the following comments: "I wanted to thank you again for inviting me to speak at the Laurel Lake Association meeting this past weekend. What a tremendous group you have! I was most impressed by the size of your membership and how closely knit it appears—this undoubtedly has to do with all the activities your group engages in—the canoe races, sail boat regatta, boat parade and concert, pot luck breakfast and supper, and other things I am sure I am not aware of! And, the "Where in Fitzwilliam is the Laurel Lake Logo" activity. WOW!....I think there would be several lake associations that would love to hear about all that your group does and how you do it." [Andrea requested an article about the association for the NHLakes newsletter, which was written and published in the April 2014 issue.]



Webb Hill Quarry Update

As you know, the current owners of the Webb Hill quarry, KMO Associates, have expressed their desire to re-open the long closed quarry, to remove existing cut stones and presumably resume mining. The Laurel Lake Association and its Board of Directors voted in 2013 to join forces with a local group of property owners & tax payers who are opposed to re-opening the quarry, a group called Concerned Citizens of Fitzwilliam (CCF). Our opposition to quarrying includes a number of concerns, including potential contamination of groundwater & streams feeding Laurel Lake, degradation of air quality from dust & blasting residue, excessive noise from blasting & heavy equipment, road damage and a decline in property values.

In March, 2013 the residents of Fitzwilliam overwhelmingly voted against a KMO initiated ballot question to change the town's zoning regulations for mining. In May, 2013 KMO Associates filed suit against the Town of Fitzwilliam claiming they had been denied use of their property, maintaining it is their right to remove previously quarried stone without town approval. The Town of Fitzwilliam responded to the law suit and Concerned Citizens filed a motion in Cheshire County Superior Court, seeking to have our voices heard in the pleading of the case. One issue point was that it is unclear as to who has jurisdiction over permitting of mining operations – local communities and their zoning requirements or the state of New Hampshire. This law suit was heard before a judge in Cheshire County Superior Court and the judge ruled March 17 that KMO does not need Town approvals to remove stone or mine the quarry. The current State law, RSA 12-E states that a mining applicant is required to meet with the State Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED) and the state Department of Environmental Services (DES) and a representative of the town but local ordinances cannot take precedence over state laws. The judge also approved an injunction against any further actions by the Town or other groups to stop KMO's removal of previously quarried dimension granite. The judge denied KMO's request for financial damages. Fitzwilliam had until May 7 to appeal to the NH Supreme Court the judge's ruling but the select board voted against appealing.

Based upon this ruling, it is expected that KMO will be filing a mining application with NH's DRED. It will be up to state officials to determine what level of tests, restrictions and controls are needed for the mining operation and what level of input the Town of Fitzwilliam will have in the process. Further complicating this issue is that the owner of KMO Associates, Aaron Olson, has pleaded guilty to tax evasion related to an investment swindle and is scheduled to be sentenced in Federal court later this month. Part of DRED's mining application process is a performance history and criminal background check. The Concerned Citizens of Fitzwilliam continues to meet to determine what can be done to stop or control the mining activity. The Board of Directors of the Laurel Lake Association will also be meeting May 31 to discuss further action. If you wish to be kept up to date on this issue, I strongly urge you to sign up for the Concerned Citizens of Fitzwilliam Yahoo interest group where you will receive all emails regarding this and have access to all documents. To sign up, send email to concerned_citizens_of_Fitzwilliam-subscribe@Yahoogroups.com. (Underscores between the first 4 words.) You will be put onto the email list.

Submitted by Kathy Olson

At the July 13, 2013 Annual Meeting of the Laurel Lake Association, the membership voted to support the Concerned Citizens of Fitzwilliam group (see the above article). We made an immediate decision to donate \$500.

At a special meeting held on August 11, it was voted to send another \$2500.

It was also voted to support the Concerned Citizens fundraising efforts by contributing matching funds up to \$3000 between August 11, 2013 and June 1, 2014. To date (April 27, 2014) the LLA has donated:

	\$3000.00	in general funds
	<u>1736.00</u>	in matching funds
Total	\$4736.00	



2014 Summer Events—Laurel Lake Association

MAY

31st - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at the house of Jacqi Woodruff on Keene Avenue.

31st - 6:00 PM - The 17th 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 - **9:30 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) and at the Samuels' camp (18 Laurel Lane). (Regular road flares may contain phosphorous and can be bad for the lake. The flares sold by the association are safe for use by the lake.)

12th - 10:30 AM - The **Annual meeting** will be held at White's Field, Laurel Lake Campground, Keene Avenue. Our speakers are Carol Stein, Ph.D., Geochemist, and David McTigue, Ph.D., Hydrologist, who will speak about the geology & hydrology of Laurel Lake & potential impacts from quarrying. A must attend! Association business will also be addressed, included a proposed change to the By-Laws, and a picnic lunch follows the meeting. Bring a chair (none provided).

AUGUST

2nd - 11:00 AM - The **24th** 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.

30th - 1:00 PM - The **27th** Dresser-Friedman Regatta. Rain date is August 31.

SEPTEMBER

6th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis.

7th - 10:30 AM - The Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Brunch will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis to celebrate the finale of the 2013 Summer season. Bring a brunch dish to share. Coffee, plates & silverware will be provided.



Message from the President of the Laurel Lake Association

24 April 2014

It's time again to write to all the Laurel Lake Association members to remind them that despite the long hard Winter, Spring has arrived. The symbolic start must be "Ice Out" date on the Lake. I was recently informed by the unelected and long time keeper of the Ice Out date, Dave Streeter, that the date this year was 13 April 2014. Incidentally, it has been within a week of that date for the last several years, despite a significant variance in severity of the Winters! I visited the Lake about 2 weeks before that date - NOT inviting! Swimming will have to wait for a bit yet, however.

Everyone is interested in the "Quarry Thing". Unfortunately, the court has agreed with the plaintiff that the State has the authority to regulate quarrying, not the Town (that is my understanding of the ruling and I am NOT a lawyer). What is to happen? That is the big question, there is still some disagreement as to what the ruling actually allows. That will be sorted out and, presumably, there will a petition to do "something" up there. If you are concerned, and you should be, look to the Concerned Citizens of Fitzwilliam (CCF) website mentioned in a article elsewhere in this edition of The Ledger. We, the LLA, has financially supported the CCF in their case. You as individuals may do the same. This will be a prime subject of discussion at our Spring Meeting. Please feel free to get your comments to me by email prior to that date (cgeeco@verizon.net).

Looking forward to seeing you and activity on the Lake soon!

Cal Perry and Mary Ann

Membership Report

The current membership numbers for the 2013 membership year are:

249 Adults

15 Children

264 Total members in 140 Households

The final numbers for 2012 were: 270 Total members in 149 Households.

There are there are already 22 memberships paid for 2014.

As always, thanks for your continued support. **Perry Nadeau**



Lake Host Program Volunteers & Part Time Job Opening

The Laurel Lake Association joined the Lake Host™ Program in 2013, a program to prevent the spread of invasive, exotic (non-native) aquatic plants and animals. The program was developed by the New Hampshire Lakes Association and the NH Department of Environmental Services for the purpose of educating and preventing boaters from spreading exotic plants (e.g., non-native milfoil) or animals (e.g., Asian clams, zebra mussels) to the water bodies of the state. Laurel Lake has been lucky in that no exotic weeds/animals have been found (thanks to our dedicated weed watchers) but they are in nearby waters including the Connecticut, Contoocook & Ashuelot Rivers, Pearly Pond & Monomonic Lake.

Lake hosts are volunteers who are trained to greet boaters, explain the issues with exotic plants, volunteer to inspect their boats & trailers, remove any plant material and take samples of suspicious plants for identification. A small group of volunteers (Barbara Brooks, Barbara Green, Lexy Heatley, Steve Proctor, Debby Nance, Liz Young, & Dick Dwinell) started this work last summer, covering weekends & holidays in the summer. Having started the program, we applied for and received a grant from NH Lakes Association to help us pay for hosts. The \$1000 grant will cover 2 paid hosts. The paid hosts would be covering Saturdays, Sundays, the 4th of July and Labor Day 9 am -3 pm, so they would each work 11.5 hours a week. They would start June 21 and finish Labor Day. The pay is \$8.00/hour. The hosts need to be at least 18 years old. Barbara Brooks is coordinating this program and will conduct training for paid and volunteer hosts. Volunteer hosts are also needed who could work other days/hours and are essential, as our grant is a match to our own volunteer hours. Barbara is looking for volunteer hosts to start coverage May 24. Even a few hours a week provides some coverage at the boat landing.

Some people have asked 'what if boaters refuse to have their boats checked' or 'what if a boater gets hostile', etc. Lake Hosts are trained on how to handle this. Feedback I have heard from Barbara Brooks & Barbara Green is that most boaters are well aware of this type of program from other water bodies either in New Hampshire or other states and many wondered why it took us so long to start doing it here at Laurel Lake. All think it is a great idea and none have resisted the program. I've also heard people say 'Gee, aren't the fishermen & boaters out early so why aren't we covering those hours?' A good point! Perhaps you could volunteer to be a host for some of those hours. Anyone interested in becoming a **PAID** lake host or a **volunteer**, or for more information, contact Barbara Brooks at bbrooks625@gmail.com or call 603-585-6842.

Submitted by Kathy Olson

Laurel Lake Association Logo Contest

During the summer of 2013, the Laurel Lake Association sponsored a contest entitled, "Where in Fitzwilliam is the Laurel Lake Logo?" This was part of the celebration of our 60 years as an association. Participants were asked to solve and then follow clues to find neon-green signs which had been placed around town. Once they found the signs, they used the information provided to decode a mystery message.

The solution to the puzzle was: "Laurel Lake Association - promoting, protecting, preserving for sixty years."

Jack and Diane Burnett, Barbara Engel, Phyllis Lurvey, Debby Nance's grandson Luca Malde, and Beth Samuels were the lucky winners drawn from the entries received. They were each given gift certificates redeemable for an item from our Association's inventory of logo shirts.

Thanks go to Greg and Jeannette Gardner, Perry and Roberta Nadeau, and Steve and Kathy Olson for creating and managing the game.

Submitted by Roberta Nadeau



In Memorium

George Graf, Ph.D 1917-2013



Some people are especially memorable, and such a person was Dr. George Graf, who died in Wilmington, Delaware on August 6, 2013 at age 96. He led a long and productive life and left his wife, Lilly, son Bill, daughter Janet, and other family. He had been predeceased by daughter Karen.

George was a longtime member of the Laurel Lake Association and its Board, who for many years served as one of the "Three Doctors", joining Dr. Don Garland and Dr. Don Treat, in religiously taking water samples of the lake, ferrying them to the NH State Labs, and preparing reports of the results to the lake residents. As a member of the Board of Directors for many more years, George is remembered for his passionate concern for the lake quality and his outspoken written and voiced concern for the many issues that might affect it. In the best tradition of scientific scrutiny, he always backed up his arguments with good, hard data. He was devoted to protecting the lake's watershed, to making sure safe septic practices occurred and were enforced, and shoreland protection laws were supported and

followed. He even took on a couple of cormorants as well as Howard the Duck (a mallard who had gained a friendly following) by warning residents that these creatures would pollute the lake with their droppings if lake folk persisted in encouraging them by feeding.

The lovely tradition of bathing the lake in a rosy glow by lighting flares around its rim on the evening of the Fourth of July was George's idea. George was always a doer...not just someone with a good idea or opinion. He was an activist.

For anyone who might like to see more of what George was up to on behalf of the lake, check out the Lake Association website and the tab that will call up old Ledgers of the late 1980s and 1990s, his most active years. He was a truly remarkable man and lake neighbor, and will be sorely missed. (Submitted by Phyllis Lurvey)

Marguerite Keith 1924-2014

Marguerite (Maggie, Mum, Grandma and Namms) was born in Athol and been coming to Laurel Lake her whole life. Maggie moved to the lake in the summer, after she stopping working full time, and was a regular at Sandy Beach, sitting on her float in the water and cheering on her grandchildren as they water skied and tubed. She was very physically active, even when slowed down by leg problems in the last few years, walking to visit friends on a daily basis. Only in the past couple of years did she agree to being driven to the beach. I remember her up on the roof of her camp fixing leaks and raking leaves off, well into her 70's! Maggie was proud of her service as a US Navy WAVE in World War II and being a leap year baby. She was also proud of keeping camp entertainment to reading, cards and games, deriding television. She leaves behind her children Charlie, Bonnie, Robin and Kim and several grandchildren & great grandchildren. (Submitted by Kathy Olson)

Laurel Lake Ledger

The Laurel Lake Ledger is available at our Web site www.LaurelLakeAssn.com, by clicking on the Newsletter tab. All old issues, going back to 1988, have been scanned and uploaded as .pdf files. There is a wealth of history not only of the Association but also Laurel Lake and Fitzwilliam in these old issues and you should check them out. They may bring back some fond memories of past events and people. You can opt out of receiving the Ledger in hard copy when you complete your annual renewal form. You will instead receive an email telling you the new issue is available at the web site. Also, please include your email address on your renewal form for this and so we can contact you via email to bring you urgent updates if needed. (K.O.)



One Hundred Years at Laurel Lake

Reading articles in earlier issues of the Laurel Lake Ledger about families summering at the Lake has stirred memories for me. Our family started at the Lake in 1913 when my uncle, Archie F. Lovell, bought two lots on the east lake shore across from his stepmother's white cottage on Keene Avenue. He built his first cottage, now owned by Jim Baldwin, in 1914, and by 1931 had also built the cottage next door, now owned by the Treat family. Archie became one of the original incorporators of the Laurel Lake Association.

The Lovell family moved every summer from Fitchburg, Mass. to Laurel Lake. Archie commuted to work in Fitchburg by train from the Depot and my aunt Wendla would often walk to the Depot store to shop. The Larson branch of the family then lived in Malden, Mass. In the years during World War II we visited the Lovells in the summer, taking Boston and Maine train from Malden to Boston, changing at North Station, and riding to Fitzwilliam Depot on the Fitchburg and Cheshire lines of the B&M. As a kid I was eager to get to the Lake and the train always seemed to go too slow. But when it left Winchendon, and started through the deep rock-walled cut on the way to State Line, I knew we were almost there.

Archie Lovell raised beagles, hunted rabbits and snowshoe hares around the Lake in the fall and winter. My father, Gus Larson, who grew up in Westminster and Fitchburg, hunted with Archie, following the baying hounds, and told me that he once shot a red fox, from a Model A Ford convertible, in the middle of the, then dirt, East Lake Road. Archie regularly fished the Lake. At Sportsman's Pond he and others kept big wooden rowboats chained to trees. I well remember those boats – very heavy, with long oars and open oarlocks. It was all that I could do to row one of them from Archie's cottage far enough to the south end of the Lake to where I could look back north and see Mount Monadnock. I once got caught at the south end when a torrential rainfall marched down the Lake from the north. To get back to dry clothes I had to row right into it. Motorboats were scarce on the Lake, mostly used by a few fishermen.

In an earlier Ledger article, Ray Gehling mentions seeing many Newt salamanders in the Lake in those days and comments that few are seen today. Acid rain might have had an effect, but so could bass stocking. Newts lay their eggs in the water; the young leave the water as bright red eft and live in moist woods until they mature to grey-green spotted adults. Archie's (now Jim Baldwin's) dock is one of the very sturdy small docks on the Lake. It has steel rails supporting the part attached to the shore. He hinged the outer half so he could get it out of the water in the winter, and floated it with three oil drums. Because he worked for the telephone company, he was able to install a used telephone pole on the shore and steel guy wires to further secure the half of the dock that is attached to the shore. I used to enjoy lying on that dock and watching, through crystal clear water, the adult Newts crawling on the bottom.

Archie eventually inherited his stepmother's cottage, now much enlarged, where Jim Baldwin's son, James, now lives. It became the summer home for his daughter, and my cousin, Florence Ward, her husband Bob, son Robbie and daughters Margot and Betsy. Archie's son, Walter Lovell, took over the second lake cottage that Archie had built in 1931. My school teacher aunt, Pauline Larson, would spend summers with the Lovells. Archie planted a big vegetable garden across Keene Avenue from his cottages each summer. But he left the task of harvesting the crops and canning to the women.

My Swedish Grandfather, John Larson, spent some summers with the Lovells after my grandmother died. He would mount a big bamboo fishing pole on the end of the dock and fish with live bait. I recall going out one morning to find the pole broken and a big pickerel swimming under the dock, hooked on the line. No one believed me, a little kid, until I persuaded my grandfather to come out from breakfast and take a look.

In 1958, my aunt Pauline (who was tired of canning vegetables at the Lovells all summer) teamed up with my dad to buy, from John O. Talbot, the "Green" or "South Pond" cottage at the south end of the Lake, next to Fleur de Lis Camp, across from the Town Beach. It was a part of the Lake that I recalled visiting, as a kid, when Howeville Road was unpaved, and seeing the names and inscriptions carved into the boulders where the Town Beach is now. This cottage became Pauline's summer home and for 39 years it was also a family summer destination, plus a base for some winter visits by the younger generation. With my aunt in residence, and my parents, my two sister's families and mine visiting it could be crowded. But we used tents to accommodate the younger generation and some of the extended family brought camping vehicles.

In 1997 Wendy and I, my sister Mary and her husband, Roby Briggs, expanded our accommodations by jointly purchasing the "Red House", next door to the green cottage, from the Perry family. It has since become the Briggs' year-round home, giving us a four season presence in Fitzwilliam. The cottage and house continue to be a summer destination for the third and fourth generations of our family to enjoy the Lake.

Submitted by Joe Larson



Managing Stormwater Runoff

Every time it rains, the water is flowing over your land. If you have natural ground cover (soil, grass, shrubs & trees), the water is absorbed into the ground. Even with dirt driveways, heavy storms can send water gushing over them, pushing dirt ahead and creating troughs for future waters to make their way. If the ground is paved or has a hard packed crushed stone driveway/walkway, the water will flow over it to the nearest area where it can be absorbed. If you live by Laurel Lake the surplus water can end up in the lake. When this water flows, it is picking up any chemicals, fertilizers, grass clippings, animal waste, etc. that it comes in contact with and they can end up in the lake. The influx of water creates turbulence and reduces the transparency of the water, as you'll see from the water testing report on page 15. Homeowners around the lake can take action to reduce the impact of runoff and many of them are simple practices. These tips come from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and details on implementing them are available in an article from their website: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/stormwater-mgmt-homeowners.htm>.

Property owners around the lake are both caretakers of the lake, protecting it for their and our use, and bound by the requirements of the state's Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act (RSA 483-B), which defines requirements within 250 feet of the water's edge. These include a buffer 50 feet from the water with minimal disturbance of natural vegetation; a woodland buffer containing a certain percentage of vegetation between 50 and 150 feet of the water; and limitations on impervious surfaces (paved or crushed gravel), excavations & fillings within the 250 feet from the water. (Although the protection act was modified a couple of years ago, refer to my article in the 2009 Ledger for more details on it.) Runoff management methods go hand in hand with shoreland protection and are good practices for us all, regardless of how close we live to the lake.

Dripline Trenches & Dry Wells: Both of these methods are ways of collecting water from your roof line. The dripline trench uses a gravel base to collect water from roofs without gutters and the dry well collects the water from a gutter system. Both methods allow the water to slowly disperse into the soil.

Infiltration Steps: These are steps using crushed stone and timbers to create steps to slow down the flow of water on a slope.

Infiltration Trenches: These are crushed stone trenches that collect runoff from roofs or adjacent paved surfaces like driveways. They are not designed for major runoff events as they fill in quickly but slow down water from running downhill.

Paths & Walkways: Properly designed pathways direct foot traffic, absorb water, reduce the rate of flow, and protect soil. Pathways can also reduce the potential for erosion, and minimize the amount of pollutants flowing from your property into local streams. Paths should be meandering so water is not flowing straight ahead. They can be created from crushed stone, mulch, pine needles & other natural materials. Steep paths should have water bars built into them to slow down water flow.

Water Bars: A water bar intercepts water that is flowing downhill and diverts it to a vegetated area where it can be absorbed. The water bar is usually a rot resistant log that is buried across a path way at an angle to divert the water to the vegetated area.

Rain Barrels: A rain barrel collects water from gutters and the water can be used for other purposes. Barrels can be purchased or made using simple kits.

Rain Gardens: A rain garden is a landscaped area that collects water from your roof or driveway and allows the water to be slowly absorbed into the soil. It is a hollowed out area so that the water flows to it but not more than 6" below the surrounding area and plants should be water tolerant.

If you walk or drive around the lake you'll see some good examples of stormwater runoff structures. Ask the property owners for a closer look and I'm sure they'd be happy to give you details on what they've done.

Submitted by Kathy Olson

Birds Seen at Laurel Lake



Pileated Woodpecker



Osprey



Cooper's Hawk on South Pond Road

Photos on this page from Steve & Kathy Olson



Pink Flamingo & hatchling getting ready to migrate South

Barred Owl



Adult Bald Eagle





Left: T-shirts for sale
Right: 2013 annual meeting



Andrea LaMoreaux, NH
Lakes Assoc. speaking at
2013 annual meeting

Right & below right: Cup-
cakes for 60th anniversary
party at annual meeting &
chicken barbeque



Kayaker's view of lake in fall.





Weed Watch Report 2013

Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam, NH

This year our enthusiastic weed watchers conducted three surveys, unlike previous years when reports were completed only in July and August. Each survey was conducted around the third week of the months of June, July & August. The June survey was intended not only to better reflect the entire “weed” growing season but also to provide more complete data to compare in future years.

We are fortunate again in 2013 to report that no exotic weeds were discovered by members of the group. As usual, some of our weed watchers took samples of items that they felt were new or different in their respective sections of the lake, particularly near Sandy Beach and the east side of the lake. These samples were photographed for our records and then sent to Amy Smagula and her staff at DES, who identified them as Water Naiad and pondweed species—all of which are native plants.

The growth of our most common weeds (Floating Heart, Lobelia and Pipewort) seems to be increasing, although we observed that their amounts varied over the course of the summer. The growth of other pondweeds and grasses in the lake continues to expand both in size and number of locations. While most of the growth is quite small, the largest change that we found is on the east side of the lake in front of the Swim Club in the vicinity of the spar buoys. Also, the infestation of bladderwort near the Town Beach and the girls’ camp pier is more significant than in prior years. We must acknowledge that the increased amounts of diversity and expansion of weeds in the lake may be somewhat due to the growing expertise and knowledge acquired by our weed watchers, who have become quite familiar with identifying plants in their areas of the lake.

In 2013 we were notified that a lake resident had found a bryozoan in Laurel Lake while snorkeling in 2012. A few of our weed watchers also found a bryozoan in the lake in 2013. These were found attached to such things as submerged branches and dock legs. Some ranged in size from as small as a golf ball to almost as large as a soccer ball. Although bryozoans look like gelatinous balls or appendages on submerged branches, they are an aquatic invertebrate somewhat common throughout New Hampshire lakes. They are not hazardous to human health, nor do they indicate a pollution problem. In fact, they may actually help clean the water as they are filter feeders.

A big “thank you” is due for our loyal weed watchers from 2012-2013: Debby Nance, Barbara Green, Roberta Nadeau, Tricia LeClaire, Barbara Dumont, Phyllis Lurvey, Ken DeBlieu, Steve Olson, Linda Anderson, Mary Ann Perry, and Catherine, Brad and Ned Greeley. Not only have they continued to monitor their respective sections of the lake for the past two years, they have all signed on to continue their work for the summer of 2014.

The combination of our weed watchers, the Lake Host program and individual lake residents serves as an excellent base for protecting our lake from exotic weeds. While the reconstruction of the public boat ramp is definitely needed, it does open the possibility of attracting more boats (recreational and fishermen) from other lakes and ponds where exotic weeds are present. We are proud of the work that was done this year but understand the importance of having vigilant support for maintaining the water quality and habitat of Laurel Lake.

Submitted by Weed Watch Co-Chairs: **Beth Samuels and Bill Townsend**



Example of a bryozoan



**Laurel Lake Association
Treasurer's Report Year Ending October 31, 2013**

	Expenditures	Income	Difference
T-shirts, etc.	1499.43	1850.00	350.57
Flares	586.00	530.00	-56.00
Canoe Race	1309.02	1194.00	-115.02
Donations	200.00	190.00	-10.00
Membership		2730.00	
Dues	430.00		
Postal Supplies	53.20		
Ledger	449.00		
Lake Host shirts	70.00		
Pot Luck & BOD	40.39		
60th Anniversary	919.09		
Concerned Citizens	3878.69		
Water testing	471.76		
Regatta	62.95		
Concert on the 4th	260.00		
Checking account inter-		1.96	
Totals	10229.53	6495.96	3733.57
Checking Account Beginning Balance:		8011.44	
Minus Expenditures		3733.57	
Current Balance		4277.87	
CD Beginning Balance	20288.81		
CD Interest for 2012-13	403.17		
Present Value	20691.98		
Total Assets: CDs:	20691.98		
Checking Account:	4277.87		
Total:	24969.85		

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Gardner, Treasurer



Laurel Lake Association

2013 - 2014 OFFICERS

Cal Perry - President	Perry Nadeau - Vice President
Liz Young/ Steve Olson - Secretary	Jeannette Gardner - Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charley Brackett	2014	Kathy Olson	2015
Barbara Brooks	2014	Bill Samuels	2015
Bill Chase	2014	Jack Dumont	2016
Jacqi Woodruff	2014	Craig Heatley	2016
James Baldwin	2015	Jon LeClaire	2016
Barbara Green	2015	Terry Silverman	2016

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Kathy & Steve Olson	Editors Laurel Lake Ledger
Barbara Green	Water Testing Committee
Beth Samuels/Bill Townsend	Weed Survey Committee
Barbara Dumont	Nominating
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charley Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Rob Prunier	Dresser-Friedman Sunfish Regatta
Jessica Pierannunzi	LLA Logo Products - T & Sweatshirts & Hats
Perry Nadeau	Membership/Boat Rules
Barbara Brooks	Lake Host Program
Terry Silverman	4th of July Celebration
Carl "Skip" Hagstrom	Swim Club Representative



Highlights of 2013 Lake Monitoring Results

Last summer was the 25th consecutive year of the Laurel Lake Association's participation in the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). Collecting data from the same location on the lake (the deep spot) over a long period is very useful for detecting changes in the quality of the water over time.

Our team collected samples as usual in June, July and August. They were analyzed at the DES laboratory in Concord, and a concise two-page report of the 2013 results is available on the VLAP website at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2013/index.htm. There is also a link on this page to a helpful document called "How to Read Your Report". The participating lakes have been grouped into seven regions. Go to the "Individual Lake Reports" page and click on "Monadnock Region" to find 2013 average test results for Laurel Lake's deep spot and graphs showing trends over time. There are also *E. coli* results for several swimming areas and a tributary that we have been monitoring for a number of years. Following is a brief summary of the observations and recommendations. (*Note: Chemistry tests are done on deep spot and tributary samples.*)

Chlorophyll-a (*indicates concentration of algae*): levels were low, less than the state median and stable throughout the summer. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) chlorophyll since monitoring began. This is good!

Conductivity/Chloride (*high numbers may indicate pollution*): Average deep spot and Keene Ave. tributary conductivity levels were low and approximately equal to the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) upper water layer conductivity since monitoring began.

Total Phosphorous: upper and middle layer phosphorus levels were low on each sampling date. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable upper level phosphorus with moderate variability between years. Middle level phosphorus levels were slightly elevated by August and the turbidity was also slightly elevated, indicating the potential release of phosphorus and organic compounds from bottom sediments under low dissolved oxygen conditions. Keene Ave. tributary phosphorus was elevated but relatively low compared to historical data. This is good!

Transparency: low in June likely due to high water levels, recent rain events, and pollen noted throughout the water column. Transparency improved in July and August; however historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (worsening) transparency since monitoring began. (*For tips on managing storm water run-off, see the article "Managing Stormwater Runoff" in this issue of The Ledger.*)

pH: average upper level pH was sufficient to support aquatic life and has been stable; pH at lower levels was less than desirable.

E. coli: levels at all stations were well below state standards for public beaches and surface waters on each sampling event. (*Note: The "Report Card" for the Town Beach in the full report on the VLAP website mentioned above is "Bad". This is based on data collected from 2001-2011. During that period there have been occasional "beach advisories". Elevated E. coli was likely due to weather conditions, i.e. stormwater runoff.*)

Recommended Actions: The improving chlorophyll and upper level conductivity are positive signs. The increased frequency of high volume, high intensity storm events highlights the importance of managing stormwater runoff in the watershed. See article on page 9 of this newsletter: "Managing Stormwater Runoff".

Many thanks to last season's dedicated monitoring team: Fred Krumpegal, Jon LeClaire, Phyllis Lurvey, Perry Nadeau, Roberta Nadeau, Kathy Olson, Barbara Schecter, and Daniel Shrives.

Submitted by Barbara Green



2013 Canoe & Kayak Race Results

The 23rd annual canoe and kayak race was a great success, with a good number of participants - 66 and 43 boats. Canoes & kayaks were about evenly split and there were 5 paddle boards, the newest event. Charley Brackett's good weather luck held again—sunny and comfortable. The kids race had 13 children, half from Fleur de Lis and several children of members. The 2.5 mile race had 30 participants, the 5 miler had 10, the 1.5 mile Junior/Senior race had 8 participants.

2013 Race Winners:

5 Mile Race

Men's Canoe—Daniel Acaro & David Acaro
Women's Racing Canoe—Valerie Hamlett & Pam Browning
Mixed Racing Canoe—Ed Euward & Sandy Harris

2.5 Mile Race

Men's Canoe—Evan Woodruff & Zac Gardner
Jr/Sr Canoe—Stuart & Dana Grey
Women's Canoe—Beth Rake & Karen Roy
Mixed Canoe—Al Breck & Heather Booth
Women's Kayak—Michele DeCarlo
Men's Kayak—Randy Hull
Tandem Kayak—Chad Hill & Ethan Hill

Children's Race—3/4 mile

Girl's Canoe—Katie Livingston & Whitney Ball
Girl's Kayak—Isabela Cheung
Boy's Kayak—Austin Lourake

1.5 Mile Junior/Senior Race

Jerry & Brandon Whaland

1.5 Mile Paddle Board

Riley Gervais

Tug 'O' War Winner:

Ron Hamlett & Evan Woodruff

Runners Up:

Jeff Gardner & Dan Arcaro

Youngest Participant:

Piper Hergert, 21 months old!!

Oldest Participant:

Steve Nyman, 75 years old

Submitted by Kathy Olson



“TACK AND DIE”

Due to rain with threatening thunderstorms the annual Dresser-Friedman Regatta was postponed on Saturday, August 31st and rescheduled for the following day at one o'clock. It was a smart decision as Sunday afternoon was bright and clear. A field of eight boats arrived at the starting line sailed by: Tom White, Bill Samuels, Patrick McNamara, Debby Nance, Bob Hadank, Bill Chase, Matt Poulin, Glenn Ricci and the Wyman grandchildren: Jasper, Zander and Ben. The sails in this year's race were unusually colorful and included Bob Hadank's special "Sunfish Anniversary Sail" that was decorated with spots of sunfish.

The race began promptly at one o'clock. The sailboats took off in a cluster from the Dresser's dock, heading toward a buoy on the western side of the lake. Once past the buoy, the sunfish cluster began to separate with Patrick McNamara taking the lead toward Sunken Island and then the race went into slow motion. The lack of wind was frustrating for both spectators and sailors. Patrick McNamara said that if you hugged Sunken Island and didn't go near the shore, you had a greater chance of winning. His comment was, "Tack and die!"

Finally, the boats started to break away from Sunken Island and the race to the finish line began, though it continued to be slow going. Bob Hadank crossed the finish line in first place at 2:12 pm, followed by Patrick McNamara in second at 2:14 pm. Matt Poulin came in third at 2:19 pm with Debby Nance in fourth place at 2:25 pm. The Wyman grandchildren "lost" the adult on board and resorted to hand paddling, as six little arms churned frantically to speed up to the finish line in fifth place. Tom White, Bill Samuels and Bill Chase brought up the rear.

A celebration was held following the race at Barbara Dresser's cabin. Commodore Prunier awarded the trophies to the winners. It was noted that first place winner, Bob Hadank was sailing in his very first Laurel Lake Regatta. Lucky man, he gets to host the 2014 celebration at his sister Jackie Woodruff's camp at 20 Keene Avenue! Patrick McNamara, much to the relief of his grandmother, Barbara Dresser, came in second, while Matt Poulin came in third.

Lindsey Hildredth, a first time spectator at the Laurel Lake Regatta, didn't seem to mind the 90-minute length of the race so much saying, "The Lake is so beautiful and race was a lot of fun." We hope that her words will encourage more participants and spectators for the 2014 regatta!

Submitted by **Beth Samuels**

BY-LAW CHANGES

The Board of Directors is proposing a major change to the Association's By-Laws to allow the Board to have alternative methods of conducting Board meetings other than face to face, as is our norm. The proposed alternative meetings are conference call or electronic mail or telephone polls. Any actions taken via these alternative methods are to be reviewed & ratified at the next subsequent regular or special meeting of the Board. This proposed change is to allow the Board to respond to urgent needs that occur outside of our normal meeting times in the summer months. A face to face meeting is difficult in colder months as many board members are not in the same area. We have also proposed a definition of a quorum for the Board (majority) and clarified the role of Past President (to immediately past president). These changes will be formally reviewed at our annual meeting July 12 and members will be asked to approve the changes.



Elliot Institute Concerts on the Fitzwilliam Common Summer 2014

July 17th: Van Buren

Together since 2009, Van Buren is best described as a jam band with jazz instincts that covers all musical genres, but improvises within a structure. "We play a lot of stuff"!

July 24th: Hot Mustard

A four piece bluegrass band (guitar, banjos and bass) with vocals performing classic standards with a hot and spicy bluegrass chemistry.

July 31st: Ol' Factory

A local 5 piece band headed by J. T. Lawrence and friends (guitars, bass, drums and vocals) performs an eclectic mix of original tunes, New Orleans Funk, and several covers (Little Feat, Meters, The Beatles, The Band and Bob Dylan).

Aug 7th: Brattleboro American Legion Band

Annual favorite 32 piece band that performs marches, ballads, show tunes and standard band repertoire.

Aug. 14th: Peter Boie – "Magician for Non-Believers"

An award-winning magician that will defy your reality, Peter will give you astonishing magic and have a good time with lots of humor. He is one of the top booked acts around the country.

Aug. 21st: Walt Sayre Band

One of the greater Cheshire County's best 6 piece bands performing a variety of ballads, jazz and show tunes; an annual crowd pleaser.

All concerts are 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the Common. In case of rain, concerts are held in Town Hall. Bring a chair or blanket.

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 fall board meeting and to Laurel Lake Campground for use of their field and tent for the annual meeting. Say thanks to these merchants and organization for their support by giving them your business:

Bottoms Up

Clearwater Pool

Flip Side Grill

Bullock's Farm Stand

Ed's Crossroad Pizza

Holman's Landscaping