



THE LAUREL LAKE LEDGER

LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

21st ANNUAL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2008

HOWEVILLE

If you were to drive from Fitzwilliam Depot on either East Lake Road or West Lake Road to Laurel Lake, you would come upon Howeville Turnpike. The road extends from the intersection of West Lake Road and continues to the Fitzwilliam/Royalston boundary that separates New Hampshire and Massachusetts. In the 1850s and 1860s, the Howeville section of Fitzwilliam was bigger than Fitzwilliam Depot. According to the 1888 **History of Fitzwilliam**, the mills in Howeville were the “largest manufacturing business in town for over twenty years.” Before the tourist boom that started in the late 19th century, the south end of Laurel Lake was a completely different world through most of the 19th century.

The origins of Howeville can actually be traced to Marlborough N.H. In 1803, Zalman Howe and his young wife, Phebe moved from Holden, Massachusetts to what is now Troy, N.H. At that time Troy was part of Marlborough and did not become a township until 1815. In that time, Zalman and Phebe had seven children. The oldest was Nelson, born in 1807 and the youngest was Joel (birth date unknown). In the early 1830s, they purchased land at the south end of South Pond (Laurel Lake) and at the south end of Meadow Pond (Sportsman Pond). In 1834, the two brothers started the Howe and Co. Tub and Pail Manufacturing as well as the Howe and Co. Box and Pail Manufacturing close to Laurel Lake. The remnants of these factories can be found close to where Camp Fleur de Lis is today. By the early 1850s, a third factory was making pails near Meadow Pond. Besides making tubs and pails, the factories also produced clothespins and grain measures. By all accounts, their business was profitable and continued throughout the 1830s and 1840s. By 1850, they employed 25 workers.

The decade of the 1850s proved to be an economic windfall for Nelson and Joel’s business. The 1860 Manufacturing Census for the town of Fitzwilliam showed that Howe and Co. Manufacturing employed 45 people. Their on-hand inventory for that year included 150,000 pails and 52,000 tubs. They had also expanded their business horizons. The 1858 map of Fitzwilliam shows the three Howe and Co. Manufacturing factories at Laurel Lake and Sportsman Pond. It also shows a Howe and Co. Store (close to where the main building of Camp Fleur de Lis is today). It also shows a boardinghouse close to where Fleur de Lis’s dining hall is today.

Typical of this time period, the boardinghouse was the residence for workers employed by the Howe Brothers Manufacturing Company. The 1860s brought some significant changes to this part of Fitzwilliam. Nelson and Joel’s manufacturing operation continued to prosper.



In 1866, the Reverend William Merrill began the Methodist Episcopal Society which ran a Sabbath School in School Number 3 located at the corner of Howeville and Brigham Roads.



Within a year, interest in the Society had grown to number over a hundred people in the congregation. Joel Howe was extremely active in the organization and offered land to the Society to build a new chapel closer to Laurel Lake. Unfortunately, Joel passed away in 1867 and his plans were never realized. However, with financial aid from the “Ladies Aid Society” and congregation members, the Methodist Episcopal Society was able to purchase the Howes’ store and convert it to a Methodist Chapel. Within ten years, it was decided to build a new chapel in Fitzwilliam Depot, which was dedicated in 1877. For at least fifteen years, the Methodist Episcopal operated two chapels, the new one in the Depot and the older one at Laurel Lake.

With the death of his brother, Joel, Nelson Howe decided to sell all of the Fitzwilliam property and manufacturing facilities in 1868. Nelson and his family moved to Boston, Massachusetts and then later to Maine. The new owner was Seth Newell Holman, originally from Richmond, NH. Within two years, he had partnered with Benjamin Haywood. The company’s name was changed to S.N. Holman Tub and Pail Shop at Laurel Lake and to Holman’s Pail Shop at Sportsmen’s Pond. According to the 1870 Manufacturing Census, Holman and Haywood Company employed 30 people in the Pail and Tub manufacturing facilities and another 5 people at the sawmill close to Sportsmen’s Pond. The on-hand inventory for that time included 70,000 pails. Through 1885, both manufacturing facilities were in operation. In 1886, Holman and Haywood decided to close the Laurel Lake facility and moved the manufacturing operation to Sportsmen’s Pond. By 1892, the two partners decided to sell the company which was purchased by his neighbor, Hiram Derby. He kept the factory in operation until 1906 when he permanently closed it as the demand for wooden pails and tubs had declined.

By all accounts, 1892 was the year that major changes occurred at Laurel Lake. Thomas Blodgett built the first cottage on the lake. Within a decade, other cottages were erected on the eastern shore of the lake. By 1900, a variety of small “bed and breakfast” establishments were operating in the summer months. More importantly, the old boarding house where the Howe and Holman employees had stayed was purchased by Lillie Forrestall and remodeled into a contemporary inn called the Laurel Lake Inn. It was an extremely popular establishment which helped boost the tourism trade in the early part of the 20th Century. The Inn would operate for the next 22 years until it mysteriously burned down on the night of April 20, 1920.





In the summer of 1901, the first camp for young people was established near Laurel Lake. *The Monadnock Breeze* documented in the July 5 issue the opening of Camp Chevy Chase which was a summer camp and institution school for 25 boys. It was located just south of the intersection of Howeville and Sandy Hollow roads on the 136 acres which comprised a part of the old John Burbank property. The director was Charles Burbank who was the head of the English Literature department at Classical High School in Worcester, MA. The boys would be taught astronomy, geology, athletics, swimming, fishing, and trapping. They lived in regulation army tents “walled with wooden flooring.” Meals were served in a comfortable farmhouse which wasn’t far from the boys’ living quarters. The newspaper also noted that “Laurel Lake is but a short walk from the main camp and here are found boats and floats that are all the aquatic mind may desire.” There was also “magnificent views from Point Lookout” of Monadnock, the New Ipswich Range, Peterborough mountain, the Temple mountains, Wachusett and the Green mountains. While Camp Chevy Chase only lasted a couple of years, it did predate South Pond Cabins by 7 years and Camp Fleur de Lis by 26 years.

Close to five years later, Point Lookout was witness to a remarkable hailstorm that hit Howeville on June 2, 1906 according to *The Fitchburg Sentinel*. Around 4 p.m., a severe storm containing hailstones, heavy rain, thunder and lightning descended on the area from the south. At the height of the storm, the hailstones steadily increased in size until they reached a diameter of two inches. At the end of the storm, observers collected the hailstones and found that seventeen of them would fill a quart measure. According to a witness observing the storm, it was very unusual one. “The center of the storm seemed to be over a hill near Laurel Lake, as the hailstones were smaller in other parts of the town. From a cottage on this hill the observer seemed to see the southwest wind drive the storm toward Wachusett Mountain, 25 miles southeast, then a countercurrent of east wind blew the cloud back directly toward the hill and the cottage; and the sultry afternoon was followed by the storm, which began with cool winds from the southeast and the northwest at almost the same time.”

While Howeville may now only exist in the historical record, this section of Fitzwilliam played a prominent role in the development of the town and in the creation of Laurel Lake as we know it today.

Steve Olson



Barn at Fleur de Lis Camp, the only remains of the Laurel Lake Inn.



2008 Summer Events—Laurel Lake Association

MAY

31st - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at the house of Anne Korjeff on Howeville Road.

31st - 6:00 PM - The 9th 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 the summer season off 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 the Depot Store.

12th - 10:30 AM - The Annual meeting and family picnic will be held at White's Field on Keene Avenue.

AUGUST

9th - 11:00 AM - The 18th Annual Canoe/Kayak Race at Sandy Beach. Registration at 9:30 AM.

30th - 10:00 AM - The Dresser-Friedman Regatta (Rain Date: the 31st)

September

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

6th - 5:30 PM - The 10th Laurel Lake association Pot Luck Supper will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis to celebrate the finale of the 2008 Summer season.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

Greetings from Laurel Lake. Today is tax day and the ice left yesterday. There is still snow on the ground, but not much! If you were lucky, you were someplace warm this winter! Was this a hard winter you ask?

It was such a hard winter; we are looking forward to black flies!

It was so cold; Al Gore has given up on global warming!

It was so rough, well, you get the picture.

No matter the season, this is a beautiful place to be and the Laurel Lake Association helps keep it that way. Association members are a vibrant group of individuals rallying together for the protection of the lake. Our volunteers spend many hours each year monitoring the water quality and weed populations. Volunteers also work to assure successful events including the annual meeting and picnic, the canoe and kayak race, the pot luck dinners; the 4th of July celebration and the regatta. Let's not forget those members who volunteer to be directors and officers of the organization. Lastly, imagine the effort that goes into making the Laurel Lake Ledger a reality. I'd like to thank all of the LLA volunteers for your tireless efforts.

When our family joined the LLA in the early 1980's, five bucks bought a membership. In 2007 the board voted to increase the dues from five dollars to ten dollars in 2008. In spite of the huge volunteer effort, we do incur increasing expenses for water testing, transportation, postage, and printing. We've also been able to put a little aside each year in an account to be used in case we encounter any unwelcome change to the health of the lake. Several of our neighboring lake associations spend thousands each year to fight invasive weeds. So this year when you join the LLA, you'll have to open up your wallet a little wider knowing that your participation can help assure the quality of Laurel Lake for generations to come. Thank you for your continuing support.

Bruce Knight

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The final membership numbers for 2007 were:

Adults 283

Youth 17

Child 17

Total 317 members in 157 households, a slight increase from 2006

Submitted by Perry Nadeau



The Cottage

The high, wild, blueberry bushes now cover what was once a naked path,
but a gravel road still leads
down to the deep, azure mirror that cleansed souls many times.
And if you stop-
You can almost smell the mixture of water, paint and grass,
always replaced by the comforting, pungency of mothballs
when the creaking, log door is unlatched. Soon,
the buzzing that fills the house
takes over one's ears in hopes of keeping out unwanted friends.
Providing a constant rhythm to life.
The life that always turns to night before the sun is ready to set
but the darkness, is where it all comes alive.
And if you sit still enough, wrapped under a mothball-smelling, plaid blanket, friends can be made,
with the creatures that gather around the outside, humming light.
The light that always seems broken, cracked or just ready to die,
Flickering on and off, surrounded by white insects batting their wings.
The wings that mirror those of their nocturnal comrades, who fly, silently, during the night, almost
uncensored.
Uncensored like the quiet, until you actually hear it, then you can never
forget it. Never forget
how it felt to take your first swim or walk in the woods.
Laughing so hard upon the old, rickety boat that you feared your
laughter may make the slats of red, chipped wood crumble.
Or the feeling of the warm sun on your back and the cold water on your toes
that were always heated by the sheets that had permanent grains
of sand at the foot of the bed. The sand that sticks to your feet
while you walk down the path and smell the humid air.
The air that is rich with the scent of blueberries.
The same berries that stained your lips, painted your memory
and camouflaged a secret..

Written by Samantha Moses



Much of the land at the north end of Laurel Lake was originally owned by the White family. Today, dozens of camps and some year round homes are on land rented from the Whites, including Bob White and his niece, Ann Pelkey.

Robert Clifton White

Bob White was born on June 14, 1915 at the “farmhouse” on Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam, NH to Stephen (Pop) and Isabel (Smith) White. As a young boy, he attended Columbia Grade School. To get there he would walk to the “Depot” and in the winter get a ride on a horse-drawn sleigh to the school. Bob recalls being awakened by his mother, who would announce that it, was “30 below”, before he got out of bed. It was a common sight to see the boys’ shotguns leaning up against the side of the schoolhouse so they could hunt deer on the way home.

In order to attend high school in Keene, Bob had to walk to the Depot where he would catch a train that went through Troy, picking up more students along the way. At this time, there were five trains running each way per day from Fitzwilliam. Once they arrived at high school, an hour before school began, the early birds stayed in a special room to wait until school began.

Besides attending school, Bob and his siblings (older brother “Si”, his sisters, Violet and Grace and younger brother John, all now deceased) were expected to work around the farm. This included gardening, milking cows and picking berries for canning. The only mode of transportation was by walking or boating and they peddled milk around the lake and ice from a flat row boat, which they stored under sawdust on Ice House Point.



One of Bob’s fondest memories was going across the lake to celebrate Christmas Eve with the Treats. He would pull his younger brother, John, by sled. Besides the Treats, the Whites’ closest neighbor was a family that lived in a log cabin near what today is known as the “boat launch”.

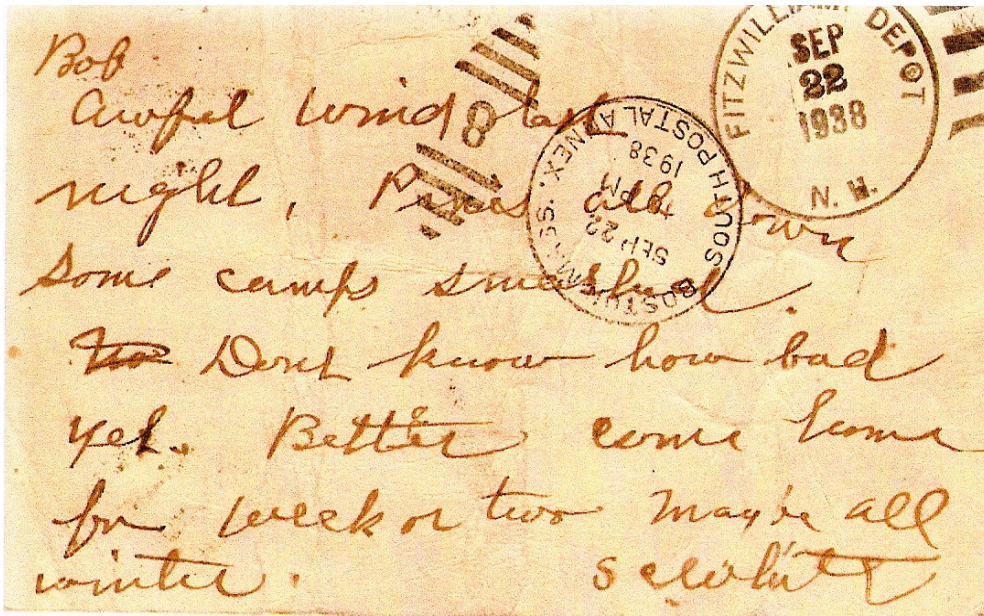
When I asked Bob what he did for fun he told me that he was one of about ten boys who would walk to Mt. Monadnock and climb the mountain to watch the sunset. They would bring blankets and stay on the mountain top to see the sunrise and then hike back down and walk home to Fitzwilliam (and I think a walk around the lake is lengthy).

Bob and Hazel White



Bob White continued...

There is a long history behind the White family. The first Whites came over from England in the year 1624 in the ship the "Hull". Captain Thomas White was born in England in 1599 and was the first member of this White family to step foot on the New World. Stephen White (born 1761), Bob's fourth great grandfather was the first White to settle in Fitzwilliam. He came out of Boston and was given a land grant as long as he would build a road and a stone wall every year. Stephen was a revolutionary soldier and his grave and headstone are still in a cemetery in Richmond, NH today. Bob's father, "Pop", as his father before him, were both Postmasters for the Town of Fitzwilliam.



After high school, Bob attended Northeastern University to study engineering for 2 years before he was called home by postcard because of the "Hurricane of 38". He refers to this as "the turning point in my life". The hurricane had wrecked havoc on the White property, destroying Bob's favorite sailboat that had been tied up in the cove. Bob and his brother spent two years clearing the downed trees and rebuilding and building cottages. Sawmills were built and Bob journeyed to Canada to purchase the motors for them. During WW II, Bob built four (4) cottages including

the Anchor, the Hazelwood, the Castle and the Harts, also rebuilding the "Store".

During the 1930s, generous Pop White allowed families from neighboring towns to build tent platforms so that they could enjoy the great outdoors and the beautiful spring-fed Laurel Lake. The boys would park cars for 25 cents so that the townsfolk could enjoy "Sandy Beach". The "camp" that Bob still stays in today was known as the "Store", where they sold ice cream and soda in the 30s. When I first came to Laurel Lake in 1970, the original coke ice box was there and a refrigerator with the motor on top is still there and running today.

Eventually, the tent platforms evolved into "camps". In the fifties, groups started having shows and plays in the area known as "White's Grove". Bob and Si, along with Jack Teeter, hosted the first meeting in the Grove, which led to establishment of the "Laurel Lake Association".



During WW II Bob moved to Hartford, CT where he worked at Pratt and Whitney as an engineer building airplane engines. This is where he met his wife, the lovely Hazel Worrell from West Virginia. His son, Richard Steven, was born in Hartford, CT on July 11, 1947. Bob bought a house and moved his family to Mayflower Road (appropriately named) in Springfield, MA where he still resides today. Sadly, Hazel passed away in 1968 the same year that Richie was wounded in the Vietnam War. Richie met and married Lauralyn (Wiaderek) and had two children, Cara and Corey White. Richie did remarry and has another daughter, Gabrielle and step daughter Alexis, who live in Florida. Bob also has two great granddaughters, Grace and Ella Edwards, daughters of Cara (White) and Dan Edwards. Like their ancestors before them, Cara and Corey spent the summers of their childhood swimming in the cool, clear waters of Laurel Lake, hiking to the “quarry”, telling stories around the campfire and socializing at Donn’s store. Gracie and Ella are now blessed with being able to enjoy the beauty of Sandy Beach as well.

Bob joined the Carpenters’ Union and worked construction until he retired. He did quite a bit of traveling throughout Europe and Hawaii. He especially loved Hawaii because as he says “it is laid back”. I remember him telling me the tale of meeting some women at Palm Springs, CA and telling them he lived in the exclusive area of Springfield, known as Bondi’s Island. Bondi’s Island happens to be Springfield’s sewage treatment plant! Into his nineties, Bob is still as sharp as a tack and has maintained his sense of humor.

To quote Bob, he says that the nicest feeling he gets is when he sees Dave Gurski coming up the road to clear his driveway after a winter storm. Bob was never one to be “cooped up”. To quote Bob, he says, “As long as I feel good I enjoy life”. His suggestion to everyone is to “Keep walking”!

Bob will always be an icon of Laurel Lake, and fondly remembered in Whites’ Grove!

Written by Lauralyn (White) Gurski

April 27, 2008



*Annual Laurel Lake Canoe & Kayak Race, to be held
August 9*



LAKE MONITORING 2007

The Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) recently received the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Merit Award, which honors citizens, businesses, scientists, and others who have made outstanding contributions on behalf of our region's public health and environment. The award was presented on April 22, 2008 at Faneuil Hall in Boston. This is a great honor for the VLAP staff and network of about 500 dedicated volunteers that are now monitoring 173 lakes throughout the state. This effort provides a data base for biologists to determine long-term trends, and provides residents and lake associations with information to help keep their lakes healthy.

Last summer our Laurel Lake monitoring group participated in the program for the nineteenth year. Water samples were collected at the deepest spot and at three swimming areas in June, July and August. In June a number of sites were sampled along the Keene Avenue tributary, and at an area of interest on East Lake Road. We received an *Interim Report* this year, without statistical analysis of long-term trends, but with data comparing Laurel Lake parameters to those of other New Hampshire lakes that were tested.

Following is a summary of some of the test results from the deep spot samples:

- Chlorophyll-a (an indicator of algal abundance) concentration – **less than** the state and similar lake medians, and lowest mean since monitoring began.
- Phosphorous concentration in the upper water layer **much less** than state median and **slightly less** than similar lake median; concentration in lower layer **slightly less** than state median and similar lake median.
- Conductivity relatively stable and low, maybe due to dry sampling season (increase indicates pollution within watershed).
- Dissolved oxygen concentration **depleted** in lower layer; phosphorous bound up in sediment may be re-released into the water column.
- pH **slightly acidic**; more acidic near the bottom (6.0 to 6.6) than the upper layer (5.5 to 5.8), likely due to decomposition of organic matter.
- Acid Neutralizing Capacity **less than** state median - indicates that the lake is moderately vulnerable to acidic input.
- Dominant phytoplankton species were diatoms and common golden-brown algae.

Cyanobacteria present in moderate amounts; can be toxic in large amounts.

E. coli concentrations (an indicator of fecal contamination) at the north beach, south beach and Swim Club were **very low** and well within the state standard for safe swimming.

May was wetter than normal, which resulted in high water level and increased turbidity from soil run-off and tributary flow. Transparency readings were lower in early summer, but improved as the summer progressed, since there was less rain from late July through September. The average 2007 transparency measurements were **much greater than** the state and similar lake medians. This is good news, but it is important to keep in mind



that transparency has fluctuated quite a bit since monitoring began in 1989. Statistical analysis in the 2006 Annual Report showed that transparency measurements at the deep spot have *significantly decreased* (worsened) during the period from 1989 to 2006. Heavy rainfall carries stormwater run-off with sediment into the lake. No doubt, changing of the shoreline over the years by increased development has resulted in more sediment being carried into the lake. All efforts to stabilize the lake shoreline and prevent washing of soil and nutrients into the lake and tributaries will help to prevent further decrease in water clarity.

The total phosphorous concentration continued to be elevated in the June samples taken from all the locations along the Keene Ave. tributary and the East Lake Rd. locations. Unlike previous years, *E. coli* concentrations were very low. On the July and August sampling dates, the tributary flow was so low that additional samples could not be collected. Those sites will continue to be monitored this summer.

Volunteer lake monitors in 2007 were Barbara Green, Fred Krompegal, Phyllis Lurvey, Perry Nadeau, Mary Ann Perry, Daniel Shrives and Perry Wasserbauer.

Note: Information in this report was included in the 2007 Interim Report for Laurel Lake, Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, NH Department of Environmental Services.

Contributed by Barbara Green



Water testing crew, left to right: Phyllis Lurvey, Perry Nadeau, Perry Wasserbauer, Daniel Shrives



VACATIONING IN FITZWILLIAM

In the late 19th century Fitzwilliam had many small prosperous businesses but it was also a vacation destination, thanks to the regular train service to Fitzwilliam Depot. "The Tourist's Guide Book to the State of New Hampshire", published in 1902, lists nearly a dozen hotels and boarding houses available for tourist lodging in Fitzwilliam. Fitzwilliam's population at the time was 967 people; it was 2296 in 2006. Note the comment on the elevation of Fitzwilliam in the Fitzwilliam Tavern listing. I've checked a variety of sources which give conflicting town elevations but it appears only Dublin and Harrisville are higher than Fitzwilliam. Excerpts from the 1902 guide describing some of the lodgings are below. It's easy to see why Fitzwilliam was – and still is – a destination for those seeking a summer respite.

Fitzwilliam Tavern, Fitzwilliam Hotel Co. Price \$2 per day, \$8 to \$12 per week, accommodates 75 pp., open all year. The Tavern is in the village, 1,201 feet above the sea, and the village is the third highest in the state. Situated in the hill country of New Hampshire, within 6 miles of Mt. Monadnock, the air is clear and dry, malaria is unknown, and even on the hottest day there is a breeze.


Laurel Lake Farm, William Whipple, owner. Price \$1 per day, \$5 to \$7 per week, 2 in a room; accommodates 10 guests. Open June 1 to Oct. 1. Situated in a fine locality with the bracing air of Mount Monadnock, and within a few minutes walk of one of the finest lakes in the state. Fine fishing, boating, and bathing. First-class table, milk and cream plenty, also fresh eggs and vegetables. Broad piazza. Only adults wanted.

Mount View Cottage, H. Frank Winslow, owner. Prices, \$1.50 per day, \$7 to \$8 per week; accommodates 16 guests. Open June 1 to Oct. 1. Delightfully situated on a high elevation overlooking the pleasant village of Fitzwilliam, giving one of the most extensive views in this part of the state. The walks and drives are numerous and very pleasant, in full view of Mount Monadnock, Pack Monadnock, Peterborough hills, Ipswich range and Mount Wachusett; 12 miles from Keene, 9 miles from Winchendon.

Kathy Olson





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Thanks again to Norm and Chris Berube
for helping with the selling of the Flares
for the 4th of July activities!



WEED WATCH—LAUREL LAKE

The weed watch format was different this year in that we now have a committee of volunteers who contribute to the overall good of Laurel Lake. With the encouragement of Jody Connor who spoke in July at our annual meeting of the Laurel Lake Association, many people offered to help.

I held a training session with 8 volunteers and the wonderful training manuals sent by Amy and I explained how we were to evaluate the weed situation on the lake. We each took a section, recorded data, and then the others reported back to me. I recorded everything on a master and came up with our report. We were expecting to do two complete watches but the second one was more sporadic than the first, I think due to the fact that we got a late start with this newly organized group.

The volunteers completed their data research in late July. The results are indicated on the master page that is included. This year there were the usual weeds of Lobelia, Pipe Wort and Floating Heart as well as some Burr Reed, cultivated Lily, Wild Celery. There were some new weeds we observed too. There was one instance each of Pickerel Weed, and Native Milfoil, some gelatinous green algae and 3-4 other weeds I have sent to you at the state for analysis. So far so good on having no exotics.

The interesting fact that we did find from the July testing to the late August results was that there were generally overall many fewer weeds especially the Lobelia and Floating Hearts. Do you have any answers as to why that might be??

Thanks for your efforts. We are all hoping to keep our lake free of exotic weeds. Thanks to all the Weed Watchers from 2007: Catherine and Brad Greely, Barbara Green, Linda Daigle, Bill Townsend, Kathy Olson, Greg Gardner, Beth Samuels and Nancy Wyman. They did a fantastic job. I hope and do believe that all of them are going to continue this summer, but we still have need of some new watchers. If you are interested, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted, Debby Nance



CORRECTION

In last year's Ledger, an article was included about Laurel Lake being in *Yankee* Magazine. A number of folks approached the editor who didn't think the pictures in *Yankee* resembled any property on Laurel Lake. Well, you were right. The cottage shown was on Rockwood Pond. So, as the old saying goes, "Right town, wrong lake."



2007 - 2008 OFFICERS

Bruce Knight - President	Perry Nadeau - Vice President
Liz Young/ Anne Korjeff - Secretary	Jeannette Gardner - Acting Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Baldwin	2009	Phil Walling	2010
Jeannette Gardner	2009	Charlie Brackett	2008
Barbara Green	2009	Anne Korjeff	2008
Cal Perry	2009	Debbie Nance	2008
Jack Dumont	2010	Steve Olson	2008
Rob Prunier	2010	George Graf	Honorary
Terry Silverman	2010	Marguerite Albertini	Honorary

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Steve Olson	Editor Laurel Lake Ledger
Barbara Green	Water Testing Committee
Debbie Nance	Weed Survey
Barbara Dumont	Nominating
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charlie Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Rob Prunier	Dresser-Friedman Sunfish Regatta
Rob Prunier	T & Sweatshirts & Hats
Perry Nadeau	Membership/Boat Rules
Terry Silverman	4th of July Celebration
Laurie Brockelman	Swim Club Representative



IN MEMORIUM

Don Austin

On September 4, 2007, the Laurel Lake Association lost one of its staunchest supporters. Don Austin passed away on that date after a month-long illness. He and his wife of 56 years, Marion, visited their summer camp on the lake almost every day throughout the year. Sometimes they couldn't drive in to the camp and viewed it from a distance or climbed snow banks to reach it. They often stayed at the camp until November snows chased them back to Troy. Don never complained about carrying water or getting up in the night to stoke the wood burning stove which was their main heat source. During the summer, Don enjoyed tending his hot pepper and strawberry gardens at the lake and helping Marion with her roses at the lake and in Troy. He was very interested in the history of Laurel Lake because the Austin camp was one of the earlier ones built on the lake, perhaps in the late 1800's. At the time it was built, it consisted of only the present kitchen and living room.

At the time of his death, Don held the office of treasurer of the Laurel lake Association as he had for at least 16 years. He took this post very seriously and would always rush all checks that were entrusted to him to the bank the very next working day so the association wouldn't lose any interest. He very much enjoyed this kind of responsibility and was treasurer of 8 different non-profit organizations. Throughout his life, he held various positions on boards and committees of many civic organizations. He enjoyed riding his bicycle and found the roads near his lake home suited him very well. He also was an avid collector of stamps and railroad memorabilia. Traveling friends could always please him by bringing him back a railroad timetable. He appreciated simple pleasures. A slow ride around the lake on a friend's pontoon boat to view the sunset and chat pleased him greatly. A trip to Kimball's or Murdock Farm for ice cream was a frequent treat. He never really forgave Kimball's for giving up on his favorite ice cream flavor: malted milk ball.

We miss Don's unique sense of humor and appreciate his dedication to Laurel Lake, its people, and the Laurel Lake Association.

Submitted by Jim and Paula Baldwin



THE LOONS OF LAUREL LAKE

While Loons were not uncommon to Laurel Lake, their presence has been much noticeable over the last twenty years. For many years, they would arrive in the early spring but then disappear during the summer. One possible reason may have been the increased large motorboat usage on the lake between Memorial Day and Labor Day. After Labor Day, it was not unusual for the loons to return for the autumn season. For years, there was a single loon who lived on the lake during the fall until the first snows fell. However, in the past two years, the presence of loons on the lake has increased. A number of reasons may account for this. The loon population is moving southward and re-establishing its territory in Southern New England. They are reclaiming their traditional territories and seem to be adapting to the presence of humans. Another factor is the efforts by New Hampshire and Massachusetts wildlife agencies to actively fund programs to promote the expansion of the loon population. Laurel Lake has benefited from these efforts. In 2006, a family of loons had success in raising a brood of chicks at the North end of the lake. Last year, for the entire summer, a pair of loons was constantly on the lake at all hours of the day and night. They were not intimidated by the presence of boats. On more than a few occasions, they would swim in the water very close to where human activity was occurring. It was suspected that this pair had nested at Sportsman Pond, raised a family, and foraged at Laurel Lake where the food source was much more abundant.



Steve Olson

Lake House

When I go to the lake,
the water changes
throughout the day.
In the morning, it shimmers like the sun.
It glows pink.
Little waves come to the shore.
In the afternoon, waves come crashing to the shore.
The sound of engines roar past
as speed boats zip by.
At night, the lake glows with a reflection of the moon up in
the sky,
while fish jump up to catch insects making small circles.
And fires burning to keep all the houses warm.

Running through the burning hot sand into the
cold water,
I pull my goggles onto my head and dive under.
Splash!
I swim to the bright yellow raft.
I climb into the cold thin air.
I shiver and jump back in the water.

Submitted by Daniel Shrives, 4th generation of Moses/Rose family to summer at Laurel Lake



2007 LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION SUNFISH REGATTA

The Laurel Lake Association held its annual Dresser/Friedman Sunfish Regatta on Saturday, September 1, 2007 at 1 :00 PM. Under sunny skies, brisk winds and white caps, four participants boarded their boats to compete for the prized Center Board and trophy.

Excitement was the name of the game this year beginning with the spotting boat having difficulties placing the markers due to the extreme windy conditions. However, after a few mishaps all was ready by the 1 PM start time thanks to the assistance of Bill Samuels and Barbara Dumont.

The start was exciting with Bill Samuels and Patrick McNamara timing the starting horn perfectly with an early lead. Following was Jay McNamara and Perry Wasserbauer with his crew of Harison Wasserbauer and Ford St. John.



The course consisted of a starting point at the Samuel's dock followed by markers at Sunrise Rock, a marked buoy at the mid eastern side of the lake, around sunken island, a marker near the south end of the lake near Camp Fleur de Lis and then on to the finish line.

All was decided within forty-five (45) minutes with Bill Samuels placing first, Patrick McNamara second, Jay McNamara third and Perry Wasserbauer and crew fourth.

Respectfully submitted - Commodore Jack Dumont

2007 CANOE & KAYAK RACE RESULTS

Children's Race—3/4 Mile

Girl's Canoe—Mackenzie Persen/Sarah Friedman

Girl's Kayak—Maggie Chran

The 5 Mile Race

OC-1 Racing—Larry Douglas

Jr./Sr. Canoe—Dan Acaro/Dave Acaro

Men's Canoe—Steve Hyman/Dave Lamoreux

Tandem Kayak—Jon & Anne Rose

The 2.5 Mile Race

Men's Canoe—Evan Woodruff/Zack Gardner

Family Jr./Sr. Canoe—Valerie Hanibaz/Karitia Peralta

Couple's Canoe—Julie Acaro/Jason Pryor

Tandem Kayak—Susan & Bruce Hill

Tug "O" War

Evan Woodruff & Dave Acaro

Submitted by Charlie Brackett



Slogan Contest

We had a great response to our Laurel Lake Slogan contest and we thank everyone who entered. It was a tough decision, but after much deliberation the following were chosen as our top four picks:

Laurel Lake – Summer at Its Best

Laurel Lake – NH's Best Kept Secret

Laurel Lake – Enjoy and Respect It

Laurel Lake – A Little Spot of Heaven

Please vote for your favorite slogan that best represents your feelings about Laurel Lake, **one vote per member. Votes must be received by July 10. The winning slogan will be announced at the annual meeting, July 12.**

Include your choice with your dues payment to:

Perry Nadeau
5 Sunrise Lane
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

Or, email Perry at: pnadeau@earthlink.net

Thanks....Let the Voting Begin!!



2008 Laurel Lake Association Membership Form

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

Each Household of paid-up members will be mailed a copy of the **Laurel Lake Ledger**

Members

Last Name	First Name	Membership Type	Amount
		A=Adult C=Child under 13	A/\$10.00 C/\$5.00
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
_____	_____	A C	_____
If you wish, you may also include an additional donation to help support the association		Donation Amount	_____
		Total	_____

Permanent Address

Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

Summer Address

☐ Same as above
 Street _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Telephone Number _____

All Applications and
checks should be
mailed to:

Laurel Lake Association
Perry Nadeau
5 Sunrise Lane
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

Slogan Vote(s) – 1 per LLA member

Submit by July 10 to be counted in the selection

Solicitor Laurel Lake Ledger Canoe Race Other _____

Thank you for your contribution

Visit us on the world wide web at

<http://home.earthlink.net/~pnadeau/LaurelLakeAssn/>

Laurel Lake Association
5 Sunrise Lane
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

