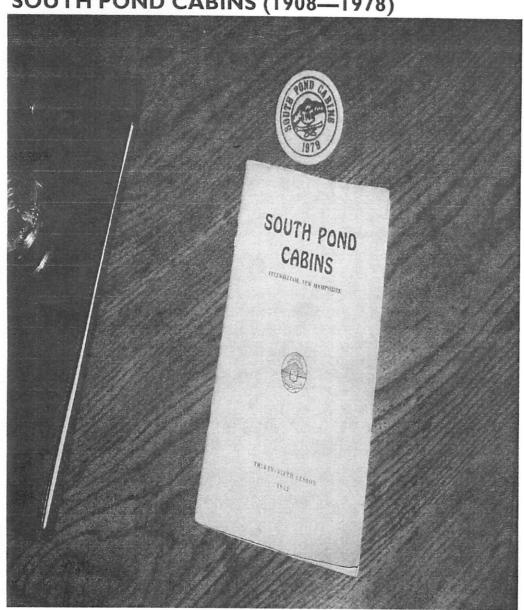


SPRING 2006

SOUTH POND CABINS (1908—1978)

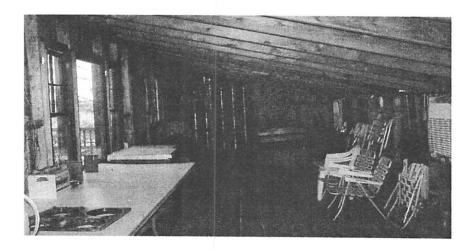


In the 1885 history of Fitzwilliam, Laurel Lake (then known as South Pond) was described as "a large and handsome sheet of water. Forests nearly encircle it, and it furnishes at the outlet good water power for the mills at Howeville. The view of the pond and its surroundings, taken from the bridge at its outlet, with the grand old Monadnock towering over all in the distance, is one of surpassing beauty." In the next 25 years, Laurel Lake would undergo a remarkable transition. Physically, at the northern end of the lake was a sandy beach owned by the White family. On the eastern side of the lake was the forested land which gradually declined to the lake. Here the first summer cottage would be build in 1892. At the southern end was the bridge and outlet.

Close by, in 1897, the Laurel Lake Inn opened for business and attracted many visitors in the summer months. The western shore of the lake was also heavily forested and also extremely hilly. The geography did not lend itself to development. Throughout the late 1890s and early 1900s, new summer cottages were build along the eastern shore of Laurel Lake. Laurel Lake had become a mecca for tourists.

In 1907, two "Masters" (teachers) from the Middlesex School in Concord, MA, Rollin M. Gallagher and R. Heber Howe, purchased forty acres of land on the western side of Laurel Lake. The property ran from West Lake Road down to the waterfront next to the Rousseau property to Sunrise Rock. Across West Lake Road, the property included the farmhouse and three large fields. The following year, they opened a private for profit boys camp, South Pond Cabins. It was to be an exclusive "pioneer" camp for boys, ages seven to fifteen. The boys came mostly from wealthy families living in the Boston area. The staff consisted of undergraduates from ivy league colleges and seniors from prestigious prep schools. The focus of the eight week summer session was on athletics and the arts. From its beginnings in 1908, South Pond Cabins was a resounding success.

1935 can be seen as a typical summer season at South Pond Cabins. The boys had uniforms that consisted of gray running shirts and dark blue shorts, dark blue jerseys, gray stockings and a dark blue hat. These items could be purchased at the W. H. Brine or J. W. Brine shops in Boston. They were required to bring their own blankets, pillow cases, tennis racket, baseball glove, bat and ball, and a fishing pole besides the usual gear needed for an eight week stay. Sports was a major daily activity. Land sports included tennis on the two courts owned by the camp. Riflery was offered at the rifle range off of West Lake Road. There was also baseball and football. For a nominal fee, the boys could also take horseback riding lessons from local teachers. The water sports included sailing lessons in the skiffs that the camp owned. There were also canoeing lessons. Two four-oared shells were available for crew activities. Swimming was the most common water sport with regular swimming periods in the morning and in the afternoon. Below is a picture of the interior of the remaining bath house that still stands on the shores of Laurel Lake today.

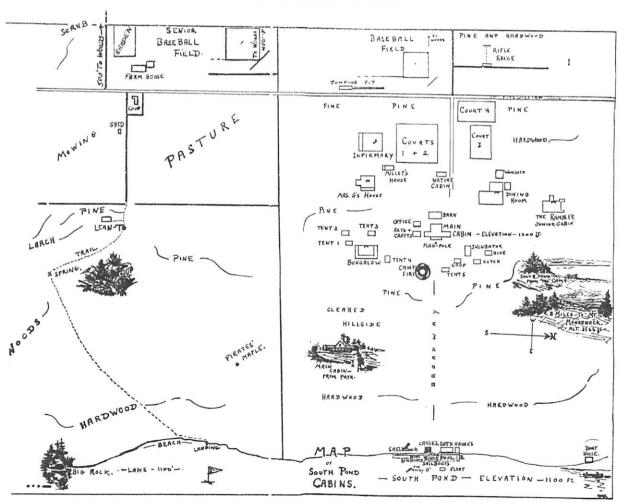


Z

For non-athletic activities, there were a variety of other activities available to the boys depending on their interests. The Nature Club conducted field trips to study birds, wildflowers, moths, and insects. A Carpentry Shop existed where the boys could "design and model small boats, and assemble one passenger kyacks for use on the lake." The Rollin M. Gallagher Memorial Library contained a 1,000 books and the boys were encouraged to read. Also, the boys were required to write to their parents on Sunday. Other activities included handicrafts, woodcraft, music, hiking, and photography. In many ways, South Pond Cabins was the summer extension of the private prep school experience. Indeed, the cost to spend a summer there, in 1935, was \$300.00. Compare that to the \$45.00 for the season at Camp Fleur de Lis.

Through the Forties, the Fifties, and the early Sixties, the routine at South Pond Cabins remained very much the same as in the past. Certainly, there were subtle changes occurring. The boys no longer arrived by train but were driven to camp by their parents. West Lake Road was paved and the horseback riding on the previous dirt road became a thing of the past. Rollin M. Gallagher and his wife, Julia (affectionately called "Mrs. G") ran the camp until their deaths. Their daughter, Anne Gallagher Putnam and husband, Hugh, along with the son, Rollin M. Gallagher Jr. and wife, Anne Burnett, took over the operation of the camp.

SOUTH POND CABINS C. 1930'S



By the early sixties, South Pond Cabins was incurring some financial difficulties. With the amount of acreage and a rising tax rate, the decision was made to sell some of the water front acreage. The beach area south to Sunrise Rock was placed on the market and sold quickly. In 1965, a contemporary home was constructed on the lake's shoreline and is currently owned by the LeClair family. It was only a temporary fix. To a far greater extent, South Pond Cabins was a victim of the sixties. American youth underwent the greatest societal change since the Roaring Twenties. A good example of this is the interior of the bath house. There is no evidence of graffiti in the bath house until the mid-1960s. From that point on until the camp's closing, graffiti abounds on the walls and the beams of the structure. Still the camp struggled on until the late seventies. By 1977, the combined value of the land and the structures was \$77,000. This made South Pond Cabins one of the highest assessed pieces of property on Laurel Lake. While there are indications that the camp planned to open for the 1979 season, it never did and 1978 marked South Pond Cabins' final season. The lake-side property was divided into house lots and were sold over the next few years.

So what remains of South Pond Cabins? Jim and Paulene Baab bought the lot where most of the camp's buildings were. The Nature Cabin still exists. Jim and Paulene's house is the recreation hall/dining room with the original fireplace. The final years of South Pond Cabins were not kind to the structure and it took Jim and Paulene a number of years to restore it to its current condition. Interestingly, the living room floor still has the "shuffle board" markings. In the yard, the original shallow well still exists. Of course, the bath house is still on the lake. Inside, there is a tablet of letters and their translation into Morse Code. Also, there is a mirror in an oak frame that came from one of the cabins. Back on West Lake Road, remnants of a tennis court remains. The rifle range and the baseball fields are still there. And a little further up the road, the farmhouse still remains. There may still be other remnants of the camp but those would be on private property.

South Pond Cabins is all but a memory now and, sadly, the last owner of the camp, Anne Gallagher Putnam died at the age of 88 on February 1, 2006. Many thanks to Jim and Paulene Baab for sharing their time and their property in preparation for this article.

Steve Olson

MEMORIES OF SOUTH POND CABINS AND LAUREL LAKE

Steve Olson has asked that I put some of my memories of my time at South Pond Cabins in this article. I attended SPC (South Pond Cabins) for 6 weeks during the summers in the mid 70's. While that was a long time ago the lake and environs still linger in my memory.

The lake (Laurel Lake) was central to the SPC experience. Every morning at what seemed an early hour (6 or 7) a bell would ring and all the campers would scurry down to the lake on the rocky and winding main trail to dip, naked, in the lake. What sticks with me to this day is that although the ambient temperature in June was cool (it seemed freezing with nothing but a wool blanket on your cot!), the water was quite warm.

I learned how to swim, not without some difficulty, in Laurel Lake. The system the camp used was "fish". One fish if you could do a certain number of laps in the pool, which was bordered by docks, a fish for swimming around the floating tower. A fish for swimming (100 yards or so, I don't remember) along the lakeshore. The final test was being capsized unceremoniously and by surprise in a canoe some distance from the dock, and swimming the canoe back to shore. The water was always murky as you got into the deeper depths, and the bottom had a fine soft muck of leaves, where there wasn't sand.

Sailing, rowing the old plywood rowboats, canoeing and rowing in a shell were all activities done on the lake. No motorboats were ever in evidence (or at least in my memory). The lake was quiet and peaceful. As summer wore on, the daily swimming (usually at least twice besides the dip was a welcome retreat from the heat.

The other memories are of woods and roads around the camp. The lighting after a summer rain was soft and reddish, almost eerie. The woods were always damp and many hours were spend playing "mechanics and engineers" in those woods. Often I would find some spearmint, or a slug or snail. As boys we were always fascinated by the massacre of newts, snakes, and frogs on the roads around the camp, sometimes you would find one every ten feet. The live amphibians were mostly left alone. We walked all over the area on the paved and gravel roads, sometimes as far as Fitzwilliam (Depot).

At night after dinner we would stoke a large campfire and gather around to sing camp songs, as well as Ivy League fight songs (it was a preppy camp) until dusk. As a child you take the quiet for granted, but it was quiet at camp, almost spooky at night if you had to travel across the camp to the one latrine.

I'm sure those who now own property on the lake would love to have a score of small boys, full of energy that only children possess, to unleash various implements of plant destruction upon the rapidly growing underbrush of the woods around the lake. Between whacking, chopping, and looping we cleared whole areas in several hours. They would do this, I suspect, whenever it seemed that we boys were too well rested.

I hope you all enjoy the lake as much as I once did, and perhaps at dusk you will imagine the voices of young boys singing off key and having the times of their lives.

Nick Carter



2006 SUMMER EVENTS - LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

JUNE

- 3rd 9:00 AM The Board of Directors will meet at the home of Anne Korjeff on Howeville Road
- 3rd 5:30 PM The 5th 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 season off at Laurel Lake. Bring your own drinks and a dish to share. Coffee, silverware, and paper goods will be provided.

JULY

- 3rd 9:30 PM Celebrate the 4th of July with the traditional lighting of flares around Laurel Lake. Flares are available from Board members and the Depot Store.
- 8th 10:00 AM The Annual meeting and family picnic will be held at White's Field.
- 29th 3-4 PM The Boat Parade. "D" is the letter this year.

AUGUST

12th - 11:00 AM - The 16th Annual Canoe/Kayak Race

SEPTEMBER

- 2nd 1:00 PM The Dresser-Friedman Regatta (Rain Date: the 3rd)
- 9th 9:00 AM The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis.
- 9th 5:30 PM The 6th Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Supper will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis to celebrate the finale of the 2006 Summer season.



LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION Treasurer's Report Submitted by Don Austin

Year Ending September 30, 2005

	200	5	2004	Change	
Balance - October 1	8045	.31	5995.75	1049.56	
Receipts:					
Membership	1188	.00	1577.00	-389.00	
Interest	8	3.17	7.29	.88	
Flares	519	9.00	512.40	6.60	
T shirts, etc.	478	8.84	606.37	-127.53	
Advertising		0.00	36.00	-36.00	
Maps		0.00	20.00	-20.00	
Total	21	94.01	2759.06	-565.05	•
	102	39.32	9754.81	484.51	
Disbursements					
Ledger	4	10.20	265.00	145.20	
Water Testing		563.48	368.00	195.48	
Stamps, etc.		60.83	62.00	-1.17	
Annual Meeting		161.15	125.25	39.90	
N.H. Lakes Asso	oc.	125.00	100.00	25.00	
Boat Parade		150.00	150.00	0.00	
Donations, etc.		0.00	300.00	-300.00	
Canoe Race		441.66	210.00	231.66	5
Pot Luck		176.50	129.25	47.25	5
Sun Fish Regatt	ta	81.80	0.00	81.8	0
Total		2170.6	2 1709.50) 461.1	12
Balance - Septen	nber 30	8068.7	70 8045.3	1 23.	39
Certificate of De	eposit	10220.	70 10099.0	121.	.69

Potluck Supper

The first festivity of the summer season begins on **June 3** at 5:30 p.m. The Laurel Lake Association will be hosting the 5th and 2006 Season Opening Pot Luck Supper in the dining hall at Camp Fleur de Lis. This is now a traditional event that was started during the 2004 summer season. Four pot luck suppers have been held over the last two summers and have been wildly successful. Besides the great homemade dishes of chicken, beef, pasta, salads, and of course, the deserts, there has been steel drum entertainment at three of these events. This is a great way to start off the season with the spirit of community that is Laurel Lake. It is also a great opportunity to enjoy an evening with folks from around the lake and reflect upon the events during the past nine months. Bring your own drinks and a dish to share. Coffee, silverware, and paper goods will be provided Hope to see you there.

From the Fitzwilliam Newsletter - October, 2005

LAND USE NEWS

Nonconformity and the Shoreline Protection Act

When a town enacts zoning regulations all existing buildings, lots, and uses are grandfathered, meaning they can continue as is, even if the new zoning puts them in violation of a regulation. Many become nonconforming structures, lots or uses, and usually with setbacks that do not meet the new zoning regulations. The town has an ordinance that guides changes in these nonconforming properties. See Article VIII of the Land Usage Ordinance. Relief can be sought from the Board of Adjustment for building or use changes involving nonconforming properties so residents are not too inconvenienced.

However, a nonconforming structure, lot or use on the shoreline is also subject to the state Comprehensive Shoreline Protection Act, RSA 483, which prohibits certain activities within 250 feet of the shoreline and mandates that towns enforce the Act.

By this Act, new construction must be at least 50 feet back from the high water mark. Fitzwilliam regulations require a 75 foot setback. A waiver can be obtained to build closer to the water, but in no case can construction occur closer than 50 feet.

The Act also provides guidance for existing nonconforming structures built prior to July 1, 1994. Structures located closer to the water than 50 feet may be "repaired, renovated, or replaced in kind using modern technologies, provided the result is a functionally equivalent use. Such repair or replacement may alter the interior design or existing foundation, but **no expansion of the existing footprint or outside dimensions shall be permitted.** A waiver is required from the Department of Environmental Services to expand any of the outside dimensions of the existing structure, including the height, if plans demonstrate that the proposed structure is **more nearly conforming.** Existing decks and open porches may not be converted into part of the living space.



If you own a grandfathered, nonconforming lot or structure, or use the land differently than current zoning allows, before proceeding with any proposed construction or use change it is recommended you meet with the Planning Board for guidance. Any proposed construction that does not meet all dimensional requirements found in the Table of Standard Dimensional Regulations, Land Usage Manual, must be granted either a special exception or variance by the Board of Adjustment before construction begins. The Land Usage Manual can be found online at the following website:

http://fitzwilliamnh.virtualtownhall.net/.

Questions or comments? Call Sandra Gillis in the Land Use Department at (603) 585-9119 Submitted by Anne Korjeff

Parade of Boats and Concert

Each year in July the Laurel Lake Association sponsors a parade of boats. Each year a different letter is chosen as the theme and entrants decorate their boats based on something that starts with that letter. The parade is held in the afternoon and after the parade a concert is held in the early evening. The concert is put on at the lakeshore and all boats are welcomed. The folksinger appearing at the concert is Rich Kumpu.

This year will be the 12th annual boat parade and concert. The letter this year is "**D**" - Donut Dog Desperado etc. This year the event will be held on July 29 with the Parade from 3:00 to 4:00 pm and the Concert from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.

15th Annual Canoe and Kayak Race

The 15th annual Canoe and Kayak race was held on August 13, 2005. There were 66 participants including 35 children for the children's race. Many of the children were from Camp Fleur de Lis and thoroughly enjoyed the event. The first event was the 3/4 mile children's race in which fourteen canoes and kayaks participated. The five mile race (four canoes) followed, which is two times around Laurel Lake. Ten minutes later, fourteen canoes and kayaks began the 2.5 mile race. An estimated hundred spectators watched the race from White's Beach and around the lake. At the conclusion of the race, the traditional canoe Tug-O-War was held which is always a hilarious event. Race participants and on-lookers were treated to the usual hot dogs and lemonade as the trophies were awarded and the raffle prizes were handed out. The following local merchants donated raffle prizes; The Depot Store, Webb Hill Farm, Bullock's Farm Stand, Bottom's Up, The Dragon Palace, and Summer's Back Country Sports. Also, many residents of Laurel Lake contributed donations to the raffle.

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15th Annual Canoe & Kayak Results



THE CHILDREN'S RACE WINNERS

THE CHILDREN'S RACE

Mixed Junior Canoe

Courtney Flynn/Josh Brackett

Boy's Canoe

Evan Woodruff/Zac Gardner

Girl's Canoe

Sarah Coburn/Grace McDonough

Boy's Kayak

Kyle Roy

Girl's Kayak

Neeley Moore

THE 2.5 MILE RACE

Family Kayak

Cindy, Richard, & Julia Seedner

Women's Canoe

Cheryl Mahoney, Cindy Jack

Family Canoe

Bill McDonald/Lauren McDonald

Men's Canoe

Evan Woodruff/Zac Gardner

Couple's Canoe

April & Dave Ropes

Women's Kayak

Jacqi Woodruff

Men's Kayak

Randy Hull



THE 5 MILE RACE

Recreation Canoe

Dave Arcaro/Dan Arcaro

Mixed Canoe

Guy Flatley & Carol Parda-Matilly

Solo Cane (Racing)

Matt King

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current membership numbers for the 2005 membership year are:

218 Adult

14 Children

10 Youth

242 Total members in 121 Households

The numbers for 2004 were: 288 Total members in 146 Households.

This year I built and moved into a house on my property in Fitzwilliam, sold my house in Milford, and spend the winter in Florida for the first time. As a result I did not have time to send out the letter in the fall to members who had not paid their 2005 dues. There are currently 62 households who were members in either of the past two years but have not yet paid their 2005 dues. Since these people were not reminded, we have decided to send the Ledger to anyone who was a member in 2004 or 2005 and hope that those of you who are delinquent with your 2005 dues will send them with your 2006 dues.

Please take a moment to look at the address label for this Ledger. An asterisk (*) appears after the word "Household" for those of you who have paid your 2005 dues. If an asterisk does not appear, our records indicate that your 2005 dues have not been paid. Please include your 2005 dues when sending your dues for 2006.

As always thanks for your continued support

Submitted by Perry Nadeau

Laurel Lake Water Test Results for 2005

Last summer was the seventeenth year that Laurel Lake participated in the NH Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). As in the past, the monitoring group collected water samples in June, July, and August from the deepest spot in the lake for testing at the state laboratory in Concord. Samples were also collected at several beaches to test for the presence of coliform bacteria, and from a number of sites along the Keene Avenue tributary that we have been monitoring for several years.

There were many rainy days during May and June of 2005. The rain was often heavy and caused a great deal of sediment and nutrient loading into water bodies throughout the state. As a result, transparency readings were lower in the early summer. July was hot and humid, so most lakes heated up rapidly. The nutrient-enriched warm water created ideal conditions for algae and aquatic plants to grow. August was warm and dry which caused tributaries to dry and transparency to increase.

A summary of the test results from the VLAP 2005 Interim Report follows.

Chlorophyll-a

Chlorophyll-a is found in plants and is an indicator of algal abundance. The concentration has fluctuated since monitoring began in 1989, but was **less than** the state median (50th percentile).

Transparency

The Secchi-disk is used to measure water clarity. Transparency was **much greater than** the state median (good), and was **slightly greater** than the median of lakes similar to Laurel Lake. Visual inspection of the historical data trend line shows a **decreasing (worse)** transparency since monitoring began. This decline is cause for concern. Next year's report will include a statistical analysis of the data.

Typically, high intensity rainfall causes erosion of sediments into water bodies and decreases clarity. To prevent further decrease in clarity, efforts should continually be made to stabilize the lake shoreline, disturbed soils within the watershed, and especially dirt roads located immediately adjacent to the edge of tributaries and the lake.



Total Phosphorous

Phosphorous is the limiting factor for plant and algal growth, and is the most important parameter that we measure. The 2005 mean phosphorous concentration in the upper water layer at the deep spot was **less than** the state median, but **greater than** the similar lake median (not good). Also, the average of all the upper layer samples is the **highest** since monitoring began. This parameter should be watched closely.

The average phosphorous concentration in the lower layer was **slightly** less than the state median and is about **equal** to the similar lake median.

Visual inspection of the historical data trend line for the upper and lower layers shows variable phosphorous concentration trends. Next year's report will include a statistical analysis of the data.

Phytoplankton

The golden-brown algae and diatoms found in the June sample are common phytoplankton species in this region and are not considered problematic. A small amount of a common cyanbacterium, **Microcystis**, was observed. This species can be toxic when present in large amounts. Cyanobacteria can reach nuisance levels when phosphorous loading from the watershed increases and environmental conditions are favorable. The presence of cyanobacteria serves as a reminder of the lake's delicate balance.

pH (acidity)

Laurel Lake continues to be **slightly acidic**. This condition is not ideal, but cannot effectively be improved.

Acid Neutralizing Capacity (ANC)

ANC was **much less** than the state median, as it has been in the past. This indicates that the lake is moderately vulnerable to acid rain.

Conductivity

Conductivity at the upper layer of the deep spot has fluctuated slightly, but remained relatively stable since monitoring began. Typically, elevated conductivity is due to human activity.

Dissolved Oxygen

The dissolved oxygen concentration was **depleted**, as it has been in the past, in the bottom water layer at the deep spot of the lake. Loss of oxygen is caused by the breakdown of organic matter by biological organisms in the water column and particularly at the bottom where the water meets the sediment. When oxygen is depleted, the phosphorous that is normally bound up in the sediment can

be re-released into the water column, providing nutrients for algae and plants.

Bacteria (E. coli)

E. coli is a normal bacterium found in the large intestines of humans and warm-blooded animals. It is used as an indicator of fecal contamination and its presence in the water, in defined amounts, means that sewage may be present.

The *E. coli* concentration at the North Beach sampling site was elevated in June (172 counts per 100 mL). Test of this site in July and August were much lower (<2 counts/100 mL). South Beach and the Swim Club all yielded *E. coli* concentrations well below the state standard for designated public beaches. Swimming is considered safe when there are no more than **88** *E. coli* per 100 mL in any one sample.

Keene Avenue Tributary Sampling

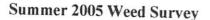
Sample sites along a tributary that flows through property on the northeast side of the lake, and then discharges into the lake, have had a history of elevated and fluctuating phosphorous concentrations and turbidity levels. Those results suggest that erosion is occurring in that area of the watershed. In June and July, the total phosphorous concentration was **extremely elevated** and the turbidity was also **elevated** in several sample locations. *E. coli* concentrations were elevated at one site in June and one in July, but were no greater than the state standard of 406 counts per 100 mL for recreational waters that are not designated public beaches. Both locations were retested a month later and the counts were much lower.

Test results still have not conclusively indicated the sources of phosphorous, turbidity, and *E. coli* levels in the tributary. It is possible that activities in this area, and/or stormwater runoff, or wildlife may be contributing to the elevated phosphorous and *E. coli* levels in the tributary. It is likely that the extensive wetland system in this area may be releasing phosphorous into the tributary, especially because of the unusually high water levels and heavy rainfall in the spring and early summer. The VLAP staff recommends that the association continue to sample in each of the locations along Keene Ave. tributary. Although *E. coli* concentration were below state limit for recreational waters that are not designated beaches (<406/100 mL), they felt that this area warrants further investigation.

Volunteer lake monitors in 2005 were Craig Heatley, Craig Heatley, Jr., Margery Aukstikalnis, Phyllis Lurvey, Mary Ann Perry, Perry Nadeau, Dana Wasserbauer, and Barbara Green.

Note: The information in this report is a summary of highlights from the 2005 Interim Report for Laurel Lake, Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

Contributed by Barbara Green



The entire perimeter of Laurel Lake was inspected from a canoe between 9:00 AM and 1:45PM. The sun was shining and the water was calm with just a little wind toward the end of the inspection. The predominant weed found was Pipewort (comments by lake dwellers as we passed indicated that they thought there more weeds in general in front of their cottages this year than in the past.) There were lighter concentrations of Floating Heart. This was the first year we had noticed Bladderwort. There seemed to be two areas of concentration - one each the west side and the east side of the lake. There were occasional small patches of Burr Weed, Wild Celery, and Pond Weed around the perimeter. None of these weeds are exotic. No exotic weeds were found!

We will do another weed watch this summer in August. If anyone would like to help, please get in touch with Debby Nance at dndesign@comcast.net or home phone 978-927-6877 and after Memorial Day at Laurel Lake 603-585-6893. If any of you would like more information on the weed watcher program and/or exotic weeds, you can go the web site:

www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/exoticspecies/

Weed Watchers: Debby Nance and Gretchen Prunier with consultation with Barbara Green.

Submitted by Debby Nance

IN MEMORIUM

The Laurel Lake community lost a number of people who contributed significantly to the lake for many years.

Arthur Rousseau

Arthur Rousseau died in August, 2005. He was long time resident on Laurel Lake and very active in the Laurel Lake Association for three decades. He will best known for the fabulous chicken suppers held in White's Field every summer for many years.

Anne Gallagher Putnam

Anne Gallagher Putnam died on February 1, 2006. She was the daughter of Rollin M. Gallagher, the founder of South Pond Cabins. She took over from her father as the Director until the camp was closed in 1979.

Donald R. Treat

Dr. Donald Treat died on March 30, 2006. He cared deeply about the lake about the lake and organized the water qualities studies that are carried out by the Laurel Lake Association. His dedication to this cause was a major factor in maintaining the high quality of Laurel Lake. He will be missed.





2005 - 2006 OFFICERS

Bruce Knight - President

Perry Nadeau - Vice President

Liz Young/ Anne Korjeff - Secretary

Don Austin-Treasurer

Craig Heatley - Past President

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Aukstikalnis	2006	Phil Walling	2007
Jim Baldwin	2006	Charlie Brackett	2008
Barbara Green	2006	Anne Korjeff	2008
Cal Perry	2006	Debbie Nance	2008
Jack Dumont	2007	Steve Olson	2008
Rob Prunier	2007	George Graf	Honorary
Terry Silverman	2007	Marguerite Albe	ertini 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 Parade/Boat Rules

Don Austin 4th of July Celebration

Jack Aukstikalnis Boat Ramp

Elizabeth "Chip" Baker Swim Club Representative



BROAD-WINGED HAWKS AT LAUREL LAKE

In late July of 2004, three immature Broad-Winged Hawks appeared at the North End of Laurel Lake around the hill that is now called South Pond Road (also the Bridle Path). For a period of three weeks, they hunted in the area as they learned to develop their hunting skills. In the first days, they tried a squirrel or two but found them not much to their liking. Broad-Winged Hawks (*Buteo platypterus*) generally consume cold-blooded animals such as insects, frogs, snakes, newts, and salamanders. Their high-pitched squeal resounded throughout the woods as they hunted and learned what food sources appealed to them. The following year, 2005, a full-pledged nest was discovered over by the "Log Cabin" on South Pond Road. The nest could be seen from the porch of the camp. The hawks had build it before the arrival of the summer season and residents. By July, the young had fledged and begun hunting on their own to discover how to survive by themselves in the wild.

Broad-Winged Hawks are migratory birds because of their food supply. They spend the summers in North America because the cold-blooded animals are available. But as the summer ends and the fall begins, the cold-blooded animals begin to hibernate. This forces the Broad-Winged to fly south to Central and northern Southern America for the duration of our winter here in the north. It is a small hawk compared a Red-Tail Hawk. It is about the size of a crow. The bird weights around 11 to 17 ounces. The wingspan is 32 to 36 inches. The body length is 13 to 17 inches. Adult Broad-Wings can be identified by their brown heads, back, and upperwing coverts. The belly is white with red-dish-brown markings mixed in. The dark tail usually has one wide white band with one or two obscure small bands. The juveniles will be brown as well. However, their chest will be a creamy white with little if any markings until they mature. These hawks are forest hunters and prefer a mix of different trees, pine, oak, maple, and birch. This makes the North end of Laurel Lake very attractive to these birds.

The Broad-Winged Hawk is best known for the stunning migration that occurs in mid to late September. There is a Spring migration in mid April to early May. However, the hawks appear to migrate in small numbers of two or three together. The fall migration is when thousands of Broad-Wings band together and begin heading south. As an example, on September 23, 2005 around 3:00 pm, an estimated 9,000 hawks were counted within a half hour from the top of Mount Wachusett. This is known as the "big one". Most of the migration is usually in smaller numbers of fifty to sixty. These formations are called "kettles". The best time to look for the September migration is usually between the 10th to the 25th of the month. Occasionally, kettles have been spotted over Laurel Lake. However, the best places to observe the migrations are the Pack Monadnocks, Mount Watatic in Ashburnham, MA., Mount Wachusett in Princeton, MA., Barre Falls Dam in Barre, MA., and Mount Tom in Holyoke, MA. In the meantime, keep your ears open and listen for the high-pitched squeal of Broad-Winged Hawks in late July as they hunt in the woods at the North end of Laurel Lake.

Steve Olson

BOATING RULES AT LAUREL LAKE

In order to assure maximum boating pleasure and safety for all, please observe all rules of safe boating. These include New Hampshire and Laurel Lake regulations. As of the Summer, 2005, the state of NH required that <u>no one</u> under 16 years old may operate a boat in excess of 25 horse power. In addition, anyone operating a power boat was born after 1 Jan 1967 and before 1 Jan 1973 (i.e. between ages 38 and 32) and everyone younger must have taken and successfully completed a "Basic Boating" course approved by the State and the United States Coast Guard! There are several options to satisfy this requirement. They are outlined on the New Hampshire Safety site (http://nh.gov/safety). Officers of the Laurel Lake Association may be helpful if you any questions about these requirements. (Note: the regulations may have changed for 2006). They are designed for your safety!

Also, for people who wish to swim in the traffic lanes for power boats, you must be accompanied by a person in a boat. A perfect example would be swimming to Sunken Island from any point on the lake. You need to be accompanied by a person in a boat.

The Laurel Lake Association

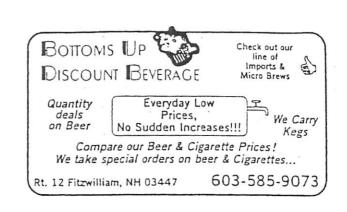
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Thanks again to Norm and Chris Berube for helping with the selling of the Flares for the 4th of July activities!





2006 Laurel Lake Association Membership Form

bership Dues are \$5.00 for Adult Memberships and \$2.00 for children under 18

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

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