



A Little Spot of Heaven

The Laurel Lake Ledger

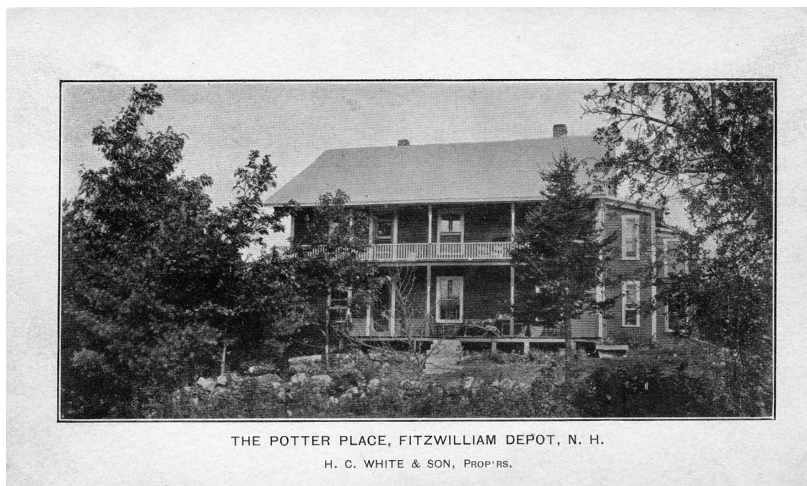
Laurel Lake Association

29th Annual Newsletter Spring 2016

WHITE'S GROVE

For over a century, the north end of Laurel Lake has been known as White's Grove. However, the White family has owned the property since the Revolutionary War. Originally from Douglas, Massachusetts, they arrived in Fitzwilliam in 1782. For their services in that war, the United States Congress paid the family with land rights in this area of New Hampshire. At first settling in the center of town, they were able to exchange that property for open fields and woodlands close to Laurel Lake. Between the Revolution and the Civil War, the White family was actively involved in agriculture, raising livestock, and in road building in that part of town.

In 1992, Sy White reflected on how the White's got involved in the lodging business. His great grandfather, Silas White, had purchased Potter Place during the Civil War. By the late 1920's, Potter Place was a thriving summer spot for tourists from the larger Northeastern cities. In a brochure for that time, Henry Clay White described the amenities of staying at Potter Place which was also known as Laurel Lake Campground. The highlights included the lake, the sandy beach on the property and the food available for meals at the farm. Another factor that created a demand was that the lake area was no longer industrial but had become a recreational delight with swimming and boating available to all visitors. By the mid-1930's, White's Grove was a beehive of activity with people renting land for seasonal tent platforms. Even though the Depression was still occurring, many people came for the summer and stayed in tents.



Current White's Grove Farmhouse.

The major event that changed White's Grove was the September, 1938 hurricane. It had been an unusually wet and rainy month and the ground was saturated with water. With fierce high winds and with an abnormal storm track, the storm toppled thousands of trees in New England. White's Grove was no exception. The next spring, two portable sawmills were set up and the fallen trees were cut into lumber. Many of the tent site renters then purchased that lumber. By the early 1940's, most of the previous tent sites were converted to one or two room cabins. As the years past, this lumber became known as "Hurricane Timber".



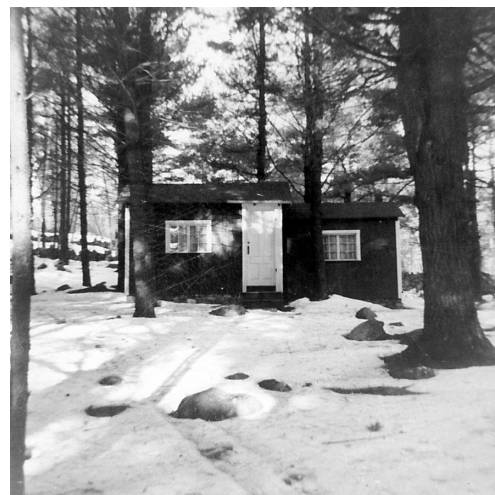
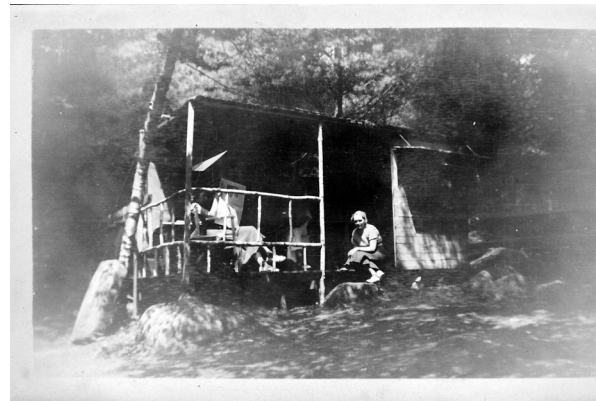
The tent site renters came from Worcester, Athol and the Springfield areas of Massachusetts. The earliest summer residents included the Brackett family, the Smith family, the Olson family, the Nevins family and the Gale family. One of the earliest buildings was the Morgan cabin (now the Gardner's) which was destroyed in 1995 when a ninety foot white pine tree fell through the roof. Fortunately, no one was in the camp when the tree collapsed. Another unknown camp, "The Last Outpost", had disappeared by the early 1970's. It was located just north of Mike Foley's cabin where the path from Sandy Beach Road joins South Pond Road. Since the cabins were built, second and third generations of the original tent site owners continue to summer in White's Grove. There were other activities available in the summer. In the late 1950's, Spicer's store sold ice cream and other sundries up until it closed in 1962. In the Grove, Donn Brackett had the Barraldon Summer Theatre in Bob White's field where he put on a play every Saturday Night in the summer. Within a few years, he built a larger theatre on East Lake Road. After Spicer's closed, he would create the Coke Room which catered to the younger kids staying at Laurel Lake for the summer.

In the 1950's, Stevie White and his children took over the operation of the Laurel Lake Campground. Potter Place was now known as the "Farmhouse". Stevie continued to raise livestock in the fields between East Lake Road and Keene Ave. It was not unusual to often find Stevie walking to Fitzwilliam Depot to retrieve his escaped cows. By the early 1960's, he gave up raising livestock.

After that the cow-grazing fields were converted into the present day Laurel Lake Campground off of East Lake Road. In White's Grove, by the early 2000's, there were 60 cabins being used in the summer and many of them converted to full time residences. Today, Ann Pelkey oversees the property that comprised the area. None the less, White's Grove is much the same as it was years ago.

Submitted by **Steve Olson**

Some of the early tent platforms & camps in White's Grove (1940s & 1950s)





LAKE HOST PROGRAM

The Laurel Lake Association is entering its fourth year of participating in the New Hampshire Lake Association's Lake Host Program. Laurel Lake is one of the eighty-one lakes in New Hampshire that has a Lake Host Program. The program's importance is increasing every year due to the spread of new varieties of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) into our state. In the years past we have been concerned mainly about plants threatening our lakes and rivers but now we have had the new threat from Asian clams, mostly in the southern part of the state, and the Chinese mystery clams. Both of these are an extreme threat to our bodies of water.

Prevention through education is key to stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species, along with supporting the Clean and Drain Legislation (HB 1589). This proposed legislation **requires** all boaters to clean off their boats and trailers of plants and simply drain them between waterbodies. The prevailing AIS prevention education message is: *Clean, Drain and Dry your boat (trailer, etc.) between waterbodies*. Although the proposed law does not address drying this is very important for many of these species can live on your boat for several days so it is either necessary to thoroughly rinse your boat or let it dry for up to seven days.

Last year our program did courtesy boat inspection on 239 boats. Our boat ramp was covered by paid host every Saturday and Sunday from 6am to noon. The remainder of the weekend days were rarely covered. Volunteers covered 176 hours last summer which is down from the past summer in which we covered 287 hours.

We have received a grant from New Hampshire Lake Association again this year for \$1300 which will cover the paid host for 6 hours on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. I am hoping that we will be able to increase our volunteer time. For information on training sessions call Barbara Brooks at 603-585-6842.

Submitted by **Barbara Brooks**



Getting the Lead Out!

A new law goes into effect in New Hampshire on June 1, 2016, banning the sale and freshwater use of lead fishing sinkers and jigs (lead-weighted hooks) weighing one ounce or less. The new law does not apply to lead core line, spinnerbaits, buzzbaits, spoons, poppers, plugs or flies. State law already prohibits the use of certain size lead sinkers and jigs in all fresh waters of New Hampshire. The new ban will prohibit the use and sale of lead sinkers and jigs weighing 1 ounce or less, regardless of length.

Anglers are encouraged to make the transition to non-lead tackle alternatives as soon as possible. "It's the right thing to do, not just for loons, but for all wildlife that may ingest lead sinkers and jigs," says NH Fish and Game Department Fisheries Division Chief Jason Smith. Many safe, effective alternatives to lead tackle are available, including tackle made of steel, tungsten, tin, bismuth and many other materials. Loons and other water birds can die from lead poisoning after swallowing lead fishing sinkers and jigs lost by anglers. Biologists have studied the effects of lead sinkers and jigs on water birds like loons and swans since the 1970s. Ongoing research has documented that, in the northeastern U.S. and Canada, where loons breed, lead sinkers or jigs can account for up to half of dead adult loons found by researchers. A loon will die from lead poisoning approximately two to four weeks after ingesting lead tackle. From NH Fish & Game, at www.wildnh.com/fishing/get-the-lead-out.html

**2016 SUMMER EVENTS—LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION****JUNE**

4th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis

4th - 6:00 PM - The 19th 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

3rd - **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.)

9th - 10:30 AM - The **Annual meeting** will be held at White's Field, Laurel Lake Campground, Keene Ave. Our featured topic is managing wildlife on the lake and addressing the geese problem. Our speaker will be from NH Fish & Game. Association business will also be addressed and a picnic lunch follows the meeting. Bring a chair (none provided).

16th - 5-7 PM Concert on the water at Sunrise Rock (west side of lake). Boat on over for some great music.

30th- 11:00 AM - The **26th** 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.

SEPTEMBER

3rd - 1:00 PM - The **29th** Dresser-Friedman Regatta. Rain date is September 4 at 1:00 p.m..

10th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis.

11th - 10:30 AM - The Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Brunch will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis to celebrate the finale of the 2015 Summer season. Bring a brunch dish to share. Coffee, plates & silverware will be provided.



Charley Brackett paddling around the lake advertising the 25th annual canoe/kayak race in 2015. The race was a great success. See the results on page 16 and more pictures in this issue.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

From what I hear sitting here in Florida, Laurel Lake has just come through a very mild winter. The earliest ice-out on record (March 11th) signaled an early spring. I'm sure now everyone's thoughts have turned to summer and the lake. I know mine have.

When I received the request for a President's Message to appear in the Ledger, I realized that the association has many hard working volunteers who are planning our continued stewardship of this little spot of heaven.

- ◇ The Lake Hosts Program, which monitors boats entering the lake at the boat ramp, has been approved for a NH Lakes Association grant again this year.
- ◇ Last year's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (water testing) report has been received and reviewed and plans are being made for this year's sampling schedule.
- ◇ We have representatives who are getting ready to participate in the NH Lakes Congress.
- ◇ The Weed Watch Committee is preparing maps and planning for this year's cycle of observations.
- ◇ Financial reports are being prepared and verified.
- ◇ The Board of Directors is getting ready to meet in early June to finalize the association's event schedule and plan the annual meeting.
- ◇ Our Membership Database is being readied for another membership year and to produce labels for mailing this year's Ledger.
- ◇ The Laurel Lake Ledger is getting ready to go to press to keep us all informed.

It takes many dedicated volunteers working many long hours to keep our association functioning as well as it does and to keep our lake and its community "A Little Spot Of Heaven".

We all should be thankful for the wonderful people who make sure these things get done. We should not hesitate to say "Thank You" or better yet "How Can I Help?".

Perry Nadeau

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current membership numbers for the 2015 membership year are:

253 Adults

19 Children

272 Total members in 142 Households

The final numbers for 2014 were 278 Total members in 150 Households.

There are already 44 memberships paid for 2016.

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

IN MEMORIUM

Dustin (Dusty) Burke, aged 88, died February, 2016. A resident of Sherborn, MA for 50 years, Dusty was born in Athol. He was married to Shirley (Brackett) for 53 years and they had a camp in White's Grove for many years. Dusty was a superb athlete and terrific swimmer which his children inherited, regularly swimming around Laurel Lake. Dusty was co-founder of Harvard's Student Agencies, the largest student run company in the world and became its first General Manager. For many years later he was a management consultant. He leaves behind his 5 children—Dusty Jr., Karen, Kelly, Joanna & Bobby, 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Morris Nirenberg, a resident of Laurel Lake since 1974, died November, 2015 at the age of 92. Morris was born in Poland and immigrated to New York City at the age of 6. A mechanical engineer, Morris was an inventor & entrepreneur, owning several machining and instrument businesses. In the 1970's he and his wife Rita saw an ad for a property on West Lake Road. They looked at it, fell in love and bought it the same day! He loved cultivating and harvesting his two acres of blueberries. Besides his wife Rita, Morris leaves his daughter Lisa and son David and 10 grandchildren.



Aerial view of Laurel Lake, Dec. 2015, taken by Ken DeBlieu from his drone! Sandy Beach (north end) is at the bottom.



GOOSED!

We like to think of Laurel Lake as a “little bit of Heaven”, but late last summer and into early fall the white feathers floating somewhat abundantly at the southwest end of the lake were not from angels wings! As the accompanying photos show, kayakers found Canadian goose feathers sailing merrily, and in some profusion, in the cove waters. A more ugly and worrisome sight appeared in the same area, stretching from the Girls’ Camp boat dock to the western lake shore where many small boulders protrude above the water line, and were found covered with liberal amounts of goose droppings. On a clear day it was evident that much of the fecal matter had also landed on the



Geese Poop on lake rocks

lake bottom in that otherwise pristine, but shallow section of the lake. On subsequent visits to the area, the kayakers found that a fairly thick coating of droppings still covered the rocks, even after a driving rain.

As Summer 2015 wore on there were signs a goose population that included both adults and a few dozen youngsters were taking up residence on Laurel Lake. Some residents, whose properties had areas of mowed green grass, an attraction, it turns out, for Canadian geese, were first to notice. These uninvited “guests” seemed to prefer the lake’s northwest, central west, and southwest regions most. They would fly in, feed, and leave behind a fecal mess. To the dismay of those who contacted the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), they found each goose can consume up to five pounds of grass in a day, and leaves behind THREE pounds of poop! Just ONE goose! Besides the nuisance such a predicament causes the lake homeowner, the situation contributes to an unhealthy level of nutrient loading in the lake water which, in turn, causes algae blooms and excessive plant growth in the lake. This is something the thoughtful residents of the lake have been so carefully avoiding for many years by adopting responsible environmental practices.

Moreover, according to the NH DES, geese defecating near shore or in the lake create a health risk to humans. A swimmers’ itch organism lives in goose fecal matter and can cause a temporary skin rash in humans. While not requiring medical treatment, the rash, caused by a small parasite, is nonetheless unwelcome. Of greater concern, however, is the presence of E. coli bacteria in the fecal matter, which in large amounts may cause nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea or other gastrointestinal problems. For this reason the NH DES BB-53 Environmental Fact Sheet warns lake users unequivocally: “You should avoid contact and ingestion of water in areas frequented by geese.”

So what to do? How can Laurel Lake residents, who revere “all God’s creatures” and are a hospitable and environmentally sensitive lot, yet wish to keep the water quality of Laurel Lake pristine and healthy for human recreation, supposed to manage this growing problem? After all, according to the fact sheet, geese can live upwards of 24 years and so the dilemma could become more nasty and difficult to manage if left unchecked or ignored. One lake resident, taking a hint from some golf course owners, purchased a life-sized coyote decoy for his property, changing its location every few days, knowing geese are usually discouraged by the presence of such a natural predator. The speaker at the Lake Association meeting in July 2015 said decoy swans placed in the water have worked in some places to discourage fly-ins. However, the same speaker noted there is no simple fix or one-time solution that’s foolproof. And being environmentally sensitive souls, we know an all-out “goose shoot” is out of the question!

So...some suggestions from NH DES include these management strategies and advises following at least two or more for some success.

Grassy areas should be kept high. (6 “)

Create buffer zones between grass and the lake shore using bushes, shrubs, vegetation.

Create a simple barrier between grass and water that a goose cannot walk under or over, such as a piece of string.

Spray methyl anthranilate on a lawn which cause the taste of grass to be unpleasant to the geese.

Use noise harassment, particularly if you notice the visits at a regular time of day. DES recommends propane cannons, starter pistols, air horns, and recorded predator noises...or even a barking dog! (Neighbor alerts are probably wise!)

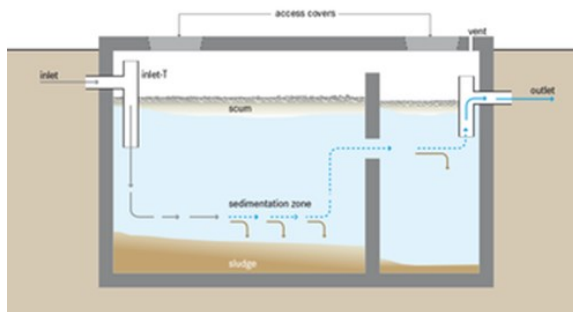
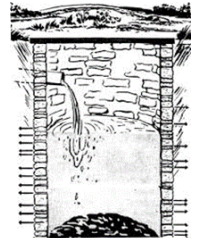
For more information, consult the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services webpage, www.des.nh.gov and particularly its fact sheet BB-53, *Canada Geese Facts and Management Options*, the primary source used in this article. The end of that resource also lists other helpful websites that deal with Canada goose management as well as the topic of swimmers itch and bacteria in surface waters. Additionally, our **annual meeting, July 9**, will feature a speaker from NH Fish & Game to speak about the goose problem and managing wildlife at the lake.

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MODERN SEPTIC SYSTEM

Many of us around the lake drink well water from our property and enjoy the clean spring waters of the lake. In order to maintain this quality it is important to think about what we put back into the ground. The water in our wells and in the springs that flow from the ground into the lake are easily contaminated.



Here's a brief history of the evolution of the waste disposal system and how we have arrived at today's system. Some of you may remember the outhouse and the drawbacks of that disposal method. Odor, flies, bugs, (odor gets mentioned twice), and having to clean the pit or move the outhouse every few seasons. The disposal process involved the untreated liquid leaching into the soil, and the solids composting into a peat like material at the bottom. Fortunately, we advanced to indoor plumbing with the waste going to a cesspit or cesspool. Here the process is similar, with the waste flowing through our new pipes from the house to the pit. In the pit, the solids sink the bottom and begin to decompose and the untreated liquids flow into the soil. Along comes the invention of the Septic System. A sealed tank is placed within ten feet of the house and the waste is collected in the tank. Again the solids sink to the bottom, and baffles in the tank keep the liquid level near the top where a crust forms. Septic means without oxygen. The digestion process utilizes bacteria that thrive without oxygen. The liquid after flowing slowly through the tank allowing the solids to float or sink are decanted off and removed from the tank containing only small particles of solids to the leach field where they are disposed into the ground. Note the outhouse and the cesspit allow untreated liquids to flow into the surrounding soil. The Septic system removes some of the bacteria but the liquid flowing into the ground is not clean.

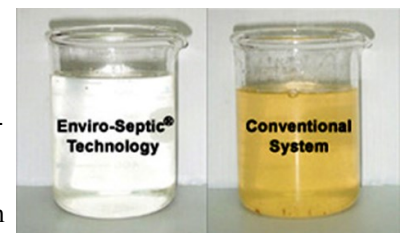


Over the past few years, I have installed several septic systems that are designed to purify the water as much as possible before releasing it into the ground. In the State of New Hampshire the **Department of Environmental Services** (DES) reviews and approves all septic plans submitted in the state, inspects the system during the installation process and grants a use permit when everything is complete.

There is a proprietary design that is accepted and encouraged in environmentally sensitive areas. The system is

called the Presby Advanced Enviro-Septic® (AES). The AES system itself is simple, low cost, removes 99 percent of the contaminants in the waste, requires less room than most conventional septic leach fields and should be maintenance free for years if treated correctly. So what is different with the new system? The septic tank is still utilized but the leach field is changed.

Twelve inch diameter corrugated plastic pipes that contain many perforations are wrapped with a material resembling indoor outdoor carpet and geotextiles. The liquid enters the pipes and the liquid is absorbed by the fabrics. The main difference is the flow of oxygen through the system by way of vent pipes. The air flow from venting allows the formation of an anaerobic type of bacteria that thrives with oxygen. These bacteria continue to break down the contaminants in the liquid. The system is surrounded by clean sand that wicks the clean water away and disperses it to the soil. What is discharged into the soil is clear and 99 percent free of contaminants.



Other advantages of this system are the flexibility of the system to be bent or curved depending on the topography of the site, avoid areas of ledge, or the need to minimize tree removal. The pipes can be placed in many configurations to accommodate almost any condition.

The technology continues to evolve. The newest system from the Presby company is called the Enviro-fin system. The benefit is that the leaching field for a three bedroom house requires less than 100 square feet of space compared to 280 square feet for the Advance Enviro-Septic and 825 square feet of stone and pipe. This is good news for people around the lake with small lots.

All septic systems require tank pumping from time to time to removed the solids that do not decompose in the septic process. Every two years is a good number for seasonal homes.

Other good practices are to limit as much as possible the amount of grease that is released into the system by wiping pans with a paper towel and disposing as much grease as possible in the trash.



(Septic Systems, continued):



One of the most important things which enter our ground water through septic systems is medications. When your body passes the excess medicine it doesn't absorb it is removed in your waste. The septic process cannot remove most medications so they continue into the ground water. We have little control over this process however NEVER dispose of unused medicine in your septic system. This practice discharges a massive dose of untreated medicine directly into the ground water.

So what does all this cost? The short answer is everyone's price is different depending on how many bedrooms you have, if you want a garbage disposal and the topography of your lot. The first step is Design and Approval by the State. To begin, find a state licensed Septic System Designer (you can find them on the DES website) and meet with them. Talk to several and get all the information to make your decision. A septic design and approval will average \$1,500 to \$2,000.00. A standard two bedroom seasonal cottage will have a minimum cost for materials of \$4,000.00 on average. This will be for a conventional disposal system or an advanced disposal system. (The conventional system will have more materials and will be larger, the advanced system will have proprietary material costs.) Installation is the wild card. It depends on your site and if trees need to be removed, how much fill is required, and if there is ledge or boulders to deal with. A good rule of thumb is to double your material cost to cover the installation cost which includes labor, equipment, trucking etc. So we are looking at an average \$10,000.00 investment. This investment however, will insure the continued clean water we enjoy in the lake and into our ground water.

For more information check out the websites listed below:

New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services: <http://des.nh.gov/>. Presby Environmental: <http://presbyeco.com/>

ABC Cesspool and Septic Pumping: <http://abccesspoolandsepticpumping.com/septic-tank-cesspool/>

Submitted by **Tom White**, Professional Engineer, Licensed Septic Installer

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We focus on watching for invasive weeds but Laurel Lake has lots of native, non-invasive plants. Here's pictures of some of the most common ones. For more information, go to

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-05-30.pdf>



Lobelia (left)
Pond weed (right). Note: there are many types of pond weed. This is what one type looks like.



Floating Hearts (below left)

Pipewort (below)

Pickereel Weed (below right)



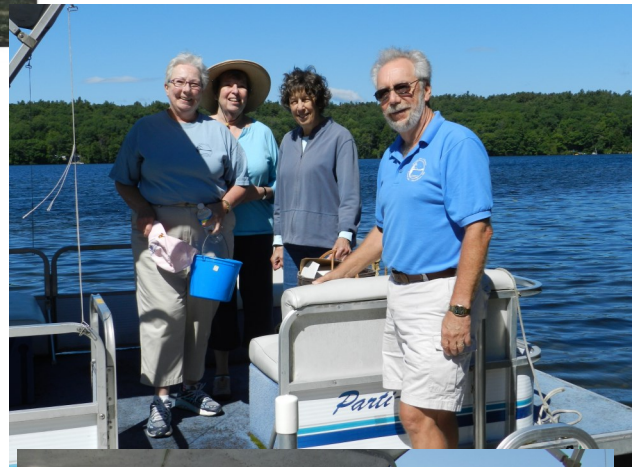
2015 Annual Meeting. Photos courtesy of Phyllis Lurvey & Beth Samuels.



How we move grills at the lake! Thanks Jim!



Water testers. Courtesy of Beth Samuels



Regatta Guys (above).
Rob "baptizing" David
Prunier (right)
Courtesy of Beth Samuels





25th Annual Canoe & Kayak Race, August 2015



Start of 2.5 mile race
(top left)
Sandy Beach Crowd
(above)
Youngest Participants:
Logan & Luke
Sienkiewicz
(left)
Tug O War
Finalists (far left)



Frozen T-shirt
contest winners
(left)
Coin search (right)



Juggling Joe &
audience at
Bob's White's
field for awards
ceremony (far
left)
Trophy winners
& race coordina-
tor Charley
Brackett (left)



WEED SURVEY REPORT 2015

In 2015 we continued our procedure of conducting three weed surveys during the summer. These were done around the third week of June, July and August.

For 2015 we have mostly good news with a little bit of bad news. The good news is that no exotic or invasive plants/weeds were found in the lake by our group of weed watchers. The bad news is that we found a small amount of purple loosestrife at the waters edge in the general vicinity of the boat landing. Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is an exotic plant that produces bright purple flowers during July and August and grows in wet areas along bodies water and roadsides. This plant, which has been prohibited in NH since 1999, was once sold as a garden ornamental. The identified plant was removed and destroyed following procedures from NH DES. The area where the purple loosestrife was found will be closely monitored in 2016 and thereafter as the plant can quickly take over the landscape by the many seeds it produces.

In our three surveys, the usual common native aquatic plants were seen. Also, as in past summers, a fair amount of gelatinous green algae and filamentous algae (looks like cotton candy) were seen the more shallow areas where the water was warmer. Towards the end of the summer, some bryozoans were seen growing on submerged branches, etc.

Our group of weed watchers is: Linda Anderson, Gail Connelly, Ken BeBlieu, Phyllis Lurvey, Roberta Nadeau, Debby Nance, Steve Olson and Mary Ann Perry. A big “thank you” is due to all of them for participating for multiple years. In 2015 a couple of our weed watchers joined with us in spirit because, due to personal issues, were not able to participate as much as they would have liked. We look forward to them joining us again in 2016 and we especially thank our other weed watchers for stepping up and covering those sections of the lake. We would also welcome others interested in participating in our “weed” surveys. Please contact Beth or Bill below if interested in joining our “weed watchers”.

The identification of purple loosestrife this summer on the shore of Laurel Lake illustrates the importance of our weed surveys in the early detection of exotic and invasive plants. It is also important for individual lake residents to report any new or different “weed” or plant growth they find.

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

Be on the Lookout for this!!



It is lovely to look at but **Purple Loosestrife** is a highly invasive plant and, as noted above, one was found by the boat landing last year. If you see this growing in the lake, please contact Beth or Bill.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) can suppress native plants and result in the

alteration of the lake's structure & wildlife. One plant can produce more than 2 million seeds annually, which are easily dispersed in the water. It is bad, bad, bad.



Double rainbow over the lake, Aug. 2015 courtesy of Harrison Wasserbauer



Treasurer's Report Year Ending October 31, 2015

	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
T-shirts, etc.	2231.02	3069.89	+838.87
Flares	567.00	500.00	-67.00
Canoe Race	2090.59	2084.00	-6.59
Membership	28.79	2775.00	+2746.21
Dues for Organizations	430.00		
Donations		430.00	
Annual Meeting	282.11		
Ledger	634.75		
Pot luck & BoD	61.73		
Conference Fees	133.05		
Postal Fees	63.55		
Regatta	62.95		
Water Testing	340.00		
Concert on the Lake	260.00		
Checking Account Interest		0.67	
Totals	\$7,185.54	\$8,859.56	+\$1,674.02
Checking Account Beginning Balance		3162.28	
+Income		1674.02	
Current Balance:		\$4,836.30	
CD Beginning Balance	20900.12		
+CD Interest	336.39		
Current CD Balance	\$21,236.51		
Total Assets:			
CDs	21236.51		
Checking Account	4836.3		
Total:	\$26,072.81		

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeannette Gardner, Treasurer

**2015 - 2016 OFFICERS**

Perry Nadeau - President

Kathy Olson - Vice President

Liz Young/ Steve Olson - Secretary

Jeannette Gardner - Treasurer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jack Dumont	2016	Bill Chase	2017
Craig Heatley, Jr.	2016	Jessica Pierannunzi	2017
Jon LeClaire	2016	James A. Baldwin	2018
Terry Silverman	2016	Barbara Green	2018
Charley Brackett	2017	Bill Samuels	2018
Barbara Brooks	2017	Bill Townsend	2018

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

Bill Chase

Membership

Barbara Brooks

Lake Host Program

Terry Silverman

4th of July Celebration Flares

Carl "Skip" Hagstrom

Swim Club Representative

Perry Nadeau

Concert on the Lake/Boat Parade

Visit our Web Site at: www.LaurelLakeAssn.com



2015 LAKE TESTING RESULTS

Last summer the Laurel Lake Association took part, for the 27th year, in the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). Our team collected three sets of samples from June to September that were analyzed at the DES laboratory in Concord. Test results can vary quite a bit over the short term, because the water is constantly changing with the weather, nutrient loading from run-off, recreational activities, and other factors. 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.

The 2015 VLAP reports for all the lakes and ponds in the state that participated in the program have been posted at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2015/lake-reports.htm. Click the link “How to Read Your Report” for a useful explanation of the test results. Then go to the Monadnock region to find the Laurel Lake report. Laurel Lake test results will also be posted on the Laurel Lake Association website.

It turned out that the 2015 average test results for Laurel Lake’s deep spot were very like the results for 2014, showing that there has not been a noticeable decline in the water quality during that time. Following is a summary of 2015 results:

Chlorophyll-a (*indicates concentration of algae*): Levels were stable compared to 2014 and much less than the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) chlorophyll since monitoring began. This is a good trend.

Conductivity/Chloride (*indicator of pollution*): Average deep spot and Keene Ave. tributary conductivity and chloride levels were slightly greater than the state medians, but were not above a level of concern. Historical trend analysis shows significantly decreasing (improving) upper water layer conductivity since monitoring began. This is a good trend.

E. coli: Sandy Beach and the Swim Club levels were very low on all sampling dates and much less than the state standards of 88 counts/100 mL for public beaches. Another good result.

Total Phosphorous: Average upper layer phosphorus level was stable compared to 2014 and much less than the state median. Historical trend analysis shows relatively stable upper level phosphorus with moderate variability between years. Middle water layer was low and decreased as the summer progressed. Average lower level phosphorus levels varied a little through the summer, with an average slightly above 2014. The Keene Ave. tributary was sampled in June. Phosphorus levels were elevated, but within the average range for that location. There was little rain before other sampling dates, so tributaries were not flowing.

Transparency: Secchi measurements were low in June, probably due to surface conditions and a significant storm event prior to sampling, then improved as the summer progressed. Transparency was better than the state median, but historical trend analysis continues to show significantly decreasing (worsening) transparency since monitoring began.

pH: The upper water level stayed within the desirable pH range of 6.5 – 8.0 units to support aquatic life, but has historically fluctuated below the desirable range. Historical trend analysis shows that pH has been stable since monitoring began. The middle layer fluctuated below the desirable range in June and July. The lower layer and tributary were less than desirable (acidic).

Recommended Actions: Lake and watershed residents should continue their efforts to reduce nutrient loading into the lake by using phosphate free fertilizers, planting native shoreline vegetation, and reducing stormwater runoff from their properties.

Note: The State Public Health Department continues to sample the public beach for *E. coli* and posts a warning if the state standard for swimming is exceeded.

Thank you to the 2015 sampling team: Craig Heatley, Phyllis Lurvey, Perry Nadeau, Kathy Olson, Beth Samuels, Barbara Schecter, Daniel Shrives, and Rachel Shrives.

Barbara Green, Chair, Water Testing Committee



2015 CANOE AND KAYAK RACE RESULTS

The 25th annual canoe and kayak race brought out record participation & record observers on Sandy Beach. Lots of lake folks participated including some who had been involved in the first race. Charley Brackett & many volunteers made it a special day by including kids games of coin search & frozen t-shirt contest, a juggler, large screen TV with pictures & videos of past races and a DJ with music to entertain everyone, along with the usual well stocked raffle. There were 101 participants and 55 boats, with 29 canoes, 19 kayaks, 6 paddleboards and 1 special entry paddleboat. Charley Brackett's good weather luck held again—sunny & not too hot. The kids race had 23 children, half from Fleur de Lis and several children/grandchildren of members. The 2.5 mile race had 48 participants, the 5 miler had 9, the 1.5 mile Junior/Senior race had 2 canoes.

2015 Race Winners:

5 Mile Race

Racing Canoe—Valerie Hamlett, Pam Browning, Bill MacDonald, Tom Carey

Men's Kayak—Steve Pine

2.5 Mile Race

Men's Canoe—Evan Woodruff & Dave Arcaro

Women's Canoe—Pat Spicer & Gail Spicer

Jr/Sr Canoe—Jerry Whaland & Cameron Whaland

Mixed Canoe—Jerry Madore & Jodie Madore

Women's Kayak—Casandra Parkhurst

Men's Kayak—Randy Hull

Tandem Kayak—Dan Mahoney & Bruce Hill

Children's Race—3/4 mile

Girl's Canoe—Carina Ramos & Ellen O'Malley

Girl's Solo Canoe—Sierra Dean

Boy's Solo Canoe—Quentin Dean

Girl's Kayak—Bela Cheung

Boy's Kayak—Gus Madore

Jr. Paddleboard—Fiona Nash

1.5 Mile Junior/Senior Race

Eric Jones & Phoebe Jones

Sr. 1.5 Mile Paddle Board

Tim Jarka

1.5 Mile Family Paddleboat

Melissa Burbank, Kevin McGuirk, Logan Sienkiewicz & Luke Sienkiewicz

Tug 'O' War Winner:

David Arcaro & Connor Olejarz

Runners Up:

Dan Arcaro & Nick Deyo

Youngest Participants:

Luke & Logan Sienkiewicz, 2 yrs., 11 months

Oldest Participant:

Steve Lyman, 77 years old

Submitted by **Kathy Olson**

Volunteer Opportunities

The Laurel Lake Association is always looking for volunteers to help with our events and to serve on the Board. See the list of Committee Chairpersons and Officers & Board members to contact if you want to volunteer. The canoe race always can use extra hands, as it takes a lot of folks to pull it off. We especially need boat spotters during the race to be there if rescues are needed and to guide the paddlers around the course. We can also use help with Lake Hosts at the boat landing; even a few hours a week is a help. And the more weed watchers there are, the smaller the area that needs to be checked by each watcher. You'll learn something new, maybe meet some new people and contribute to the quality of Laurel Lake. Help out! Some of us are getting older and we need the younger members to backfill. It takes all of us together to keep Laurel Lake as beautiful, clean and healthy as it is.



A LABORIOUS LABOR DAY REGATTA

First, I'd like to tell a little about the history of the Laurel Lake Regatta. During the 1930-40's, regattas were regularly held by residents of Laurel Lake, and interest in them was so high that their results were often reported in the "Worcester Telegram and Gazette". That interest died out, and it wasn't until 1984 that Barbara Leith inspired a group of families to renew the tradition. At first it was just four camps belonging to the Samuels, Friedmans, Garlands and Leith & Snow families that participated. Only sunfish were raced. The first trophy was a cracked yellow pitcher labeled "Four Winds Regatta" in red nail polish, and it was annually inscribed (using the same bottle of red polish) with the year and the winning camp's name. The person who finished in highest place in the regatta would receive the yellow cup, filled with beer and poured over their head as part of the victory presentation.

It wasn't long before others on the lake joined in the fun, and the regatta quickly became an event open to the whole lake community. In 1997 it was formally named "The Dresser-Friedman Regatta" to honor Larry Friedman and Gardner Dresser, one of the original participants in the earlier regattas of the 30'-40's, who had passed away within a few days of each other. At that time a special centerboard trophy was designed for the event. Each year's winner receives the trophy and a small brass plaque with his or her name and the date added. Trophies are also given to the four top place finishers. The old yellow pitcher continues to be used to "baptize" a member of the original camps.

Over the years up to fourteen sunfish have participated in the Dresser-Friedman Regatta but in 2015, due to weddings and other events, the race rallied a field of only four Sunfish. The wind conditions on the lake were so poor that at the onset Commodore Rob Prunier and the sailors consulted with each other and decided to shorten the course by eliminating the circumvention of buoys.

The race began at 1:10 at the Samuels' dock. A brief breeze launched the boats and Tom White took an early lead. "It was a nice start," one participant stated, "but the wind died in about 5-7 minutes, the lake was like a mirror." Three boats were lined up almost perpendicular to the starting line on the west side of the lake, while Tom White was stuck about 50 yards ahead of the three.



"It's like watching paint dry," observed Raymond Nance paddling by in his kayak. "No," I retorted. "Paint dries faster."

Commodore Prunier & Tom White. *Courtesy of Beth Samuels*

The boats remained "in irons" and rooted in place for almost a half hour. Nothing happened. Fun began, however, when the NH Marine Patrol arrived and started to examine the motor boats of the spectators. This was the first time that the Marine patrol had ever visited during a regatta, and there were some raised eyebrows and anxieties about registrations, and licensing. Aside from the eviction from a boat of a four month-old baby who wasn't wearing a life preserver, no calamities or fines occurred.

It was sweltering hot; there was no wind. The Commodore finally called for the sailors to turn and return to the finish line without completing the whole course. Tom White continued his winning streak, and the remainders slowly advanced to the finish line. David Prunier came in second, Matt Poulin third, and Aaron Samuels wiped up the rear. This was the slowest regatta in memory, and we were all grateful that it was over.

The after party was held at the White's Pirate Cove, and Deb White served a delicious spread of sandwiches, salads and her special ice-cream dessert. "It's a good thing you like to cook," someone told her, "because you'll be doing this again next year!" After presenting the awards, Commodore Prunier spoke about Jay McNamara who had passed away in November. Jay, the son-in law of Gardner Dresser, was an avid sailor, race participant and occasional Commodore for the Laurel Lake Regatta. Jay's son, Patrick, continues their family's sailing tradition. After moments of silence and reflection, the party broke up with anticipation of a cooling jump in the lake.

Submitted by **Beth Samuels**

**Elliot Institute Concerts on the Fitzwilliam Common****Summer 2016**

July 14th: “Legacy” A light rock band, beautiful harmonies.

July 21st: “Tattoo” (With Walden Whitham) An acoustic, five piece band performing American roots Rock 'N Roll

July 28th: “Point N, Swing Big Band” 18 piece big band sound

Aug 4th: Library Guest Program

Aug. 11th: “Banish Misfortune” A six piece traditional Irish music band

Aug. 18th: “The Walt Sayre Band” 6 piece band performing a variety of ballads, jazz, and show tunes

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. These concerts are made possible by the generosity of the Elliot Institute Trust Fund, established in 1927.

Support Our Local Businesses!

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

Bottoms Up

Bullock’s Farm Stand

Pottery Works

Clearwater Pool & Spa

Ed’s Crossroad Pizza

Flip Side Grill

Twinkle Town Mini golf

New Eats in Town

In addition to the Fitzwilliam Inn, Ed’s Crossroads Pizza and the Flip Side Grill, we have a new place to eat! Chef Allan’s Café has opened up in the Covey House, 52 Rte. 119, just off the common. It is open Tuesday thru Saturday, 10am to 6:30pm (or as long as the open flag is out). They serve lunch & take-home dinner items such as chicken, pasta salads, roasted vegetables, soups, all made with fresh ingredients, with daily specials. They also have baked goods & Prime Roast coffee. There is a 10 seat café for indoor dining and they also do catering. I saved myself a lot of cooking by getting chicken, roasted veggies, quesadillas, potato & fruit salads for take out and we loved them. Check out Chef Allan’s.



2016 Laurel Lake Association Membership Form

Membership Dues: \$10.00 for Adult Memberships and \$5.00 for children under 18
Laurel Lake Ledger: Each Household of paid-up members will receive a copy of the Laurel Lake Ledger via US Mail Delivery or E-mail (please select delivery method below)

Members

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

Permanent Address

Street: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Telephone Number: _____ E-mail Address: _____

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same as above

Street: _____
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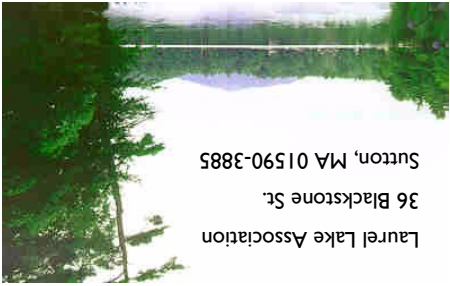
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*Please make checks payable to **Laurel Lake Association**

*All applications and checks should be mailed to: Bill Chase
Laurel Lake Association
36 Blackstone Street
Sutton, MA 01590-3885

Thank you for your contribution

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



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