

# The Laurel Lake Ledger

Volume 3 Number 1

Summer 1990

## LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING JUNE 16, 1990

The Laurel Lake Association Board of Directors' meeting was held on Saturday, June 16, 1990 at the home of President Bruce Knight.

In attendance were Bruce Knight, Cal Perry, Jack Dumont, Don Austin, Gus Hoyland, Marguerite Albertini, George Graf, Virginia Nevins, Midge Deyo, Milt Posovsky, Larry Friedman, Joanne Anderson and Don Treat.

The meeting was called to order by President Bruce Knight at 9:04 a.m. Secretary John Dumont read the minutes from the September 9, 1989 Board of Directors' meeting and Don Austin, Association Treasurer, reported on the financial condition of the Association. Both reports were received by the Directors.

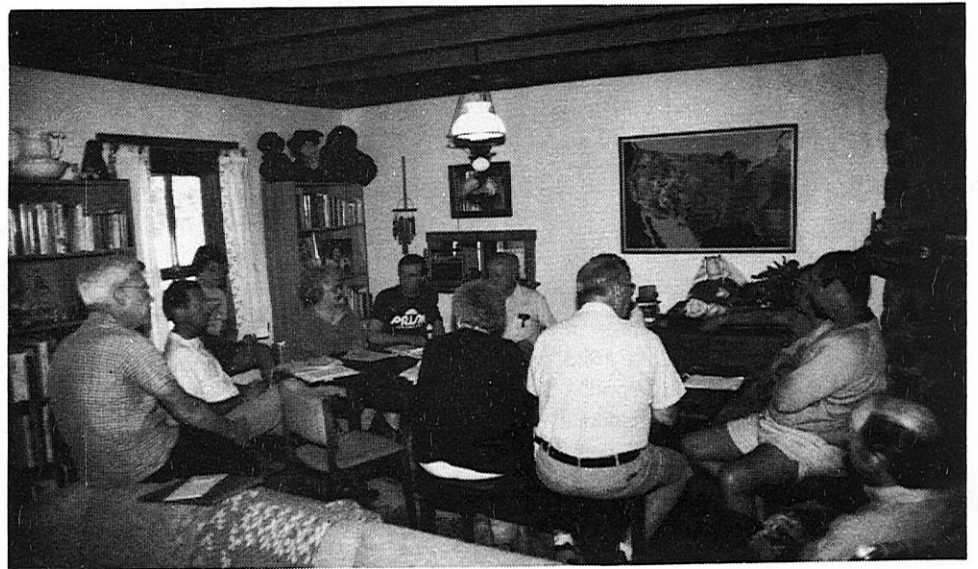
President Knight led a discussion of needed By-Law Revisions. Since Committee Chairman Don Garland was not in attendance, the matter was tabled.

A mission statement for the Laurel Lake Association was discussed. It was decided that this should be handled by the By-Laws Revision Committee.

Gus Hoyland was appointed by President Knight to oversee the Laurel Lake Boating Rules and other miscellaneous regulations dealing with Laurel Lake. All complaints should be funneled through him for further action. Call 585-3327.

Motion by George Graf that the Laurel Lake Association advise the Selectmen of Fitzwilliam of its concern regarding the continual use of the sand bottom spring, located on the property of Eugene Meyer on East Lake Road, as a public water supply. The motion was seconded by Marguerite Albertini and passed unanimously.

Motion by Milt Posovsky to appropriate up to \$50.00 for the use of White's Field for our Annual Meeting. Seconded by George Graf, the motion passed unanimously.



A meeting of the Board of Directors for the Laurel Lake Association. June 16, 1990. Home of Bruce Knight.

President Bruce Knight reviewed the summer Association activities with the Board of Directors.

Don Treat, Chairman of the Laurel Lake Association Lay Monitoring Program, presented his report on the quality of Laurel Lake based on testing conducted by our Committee and analysis by the State of New Hampshire.

Motion by Midge Deyo to make the Water Quality Report available to the Town of Fitzwilliam. Seconded by Milt Posovsky and passed unanimously.

Motion by Gus Hoyland to adjourn at 11:59 a.m. Seconded by Virginia Nevins and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
John H. Dumont  
Secretary

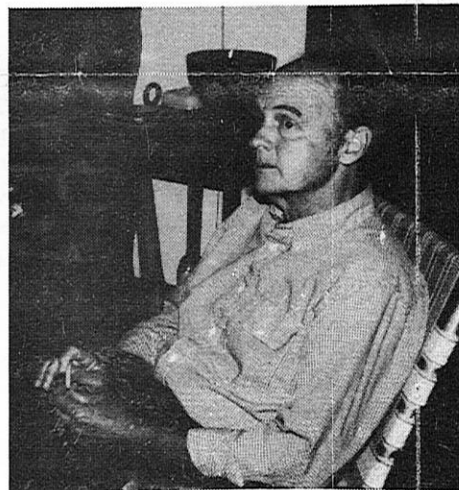
## RESULTS OF 1989 WATER QUALITY TESTING

The following is Don Treat's interpretation of the results of the 1989 water testing that was done on Laurel Lake. The lake is classified as class B, which means that it is good for swimming. There was no fecal contamination. The clarity of the water was excellent. There was no positive i.d. for exotic aquatic plants; however, there was some algae found. The color of the lake was considered very good. The phosphorus count was very good. (Twenty is considered a good rating and Laurel Lake had a reading of five. The lower the number the better you are.) Phosphorus levels at the inlets was high, which means this could be a problem in the future if not resolved. The PH was 6.36, which is a little acidic, 6.5-7.5 being ideal. Two inlets in the north end of the lake showed high levels of phosphorus entering the lake. This is probably due to leaching fields that are too close to the lake. George Graf indicated that a conductivity meter is used to measure high levels of salt which is an indicator of high phosphorus. The conductivity meter should read less than 50, and in most parts of the lake it read between 40 and 50; however, there were readings of 130 at the surface in some areas. It is assumed that the salting of the roads around the lake may be the cause of this high conductivity.

While the ph of the lake was better than it was back in 1971 when it was last tested, there has been a decline in the buffering capacity of the lake between 1977 and 1989. It is the buffering capacity of a lake that protects the waters from high levels of phosphate.

This decline in buffering capacity is of great concern to the Laurel Lake Association.

The reader should be reminded that all lakes are dying. This is a natural phenomenon; however, man can control the rate of how quickly a lake will die. All



Don Treat at the Board of Directors meeting.

owners and renters can participate in keeping the water quality of Laurel Lake high by limiting the amount of phosphorus entering the lake. Most phosphorus comes from detergents. You can help by keeping soaps, shampoos, and most detergents out of the lake; don't bathe or wash clothes, hair or animals in the lake or where surface water drains into the lake. Use phosphate-free detergents for washing clothes and dishes. If you bring boats into Laurel Lake, you should inspect them for exotic weeds, especially Eurasian Water Milfoil. The Association needs weed watchers to help inspect the bottom of the lake for these exotic weeds. If you are a scuba diver or a snorkler, you can assist. For more information contact George Graf at 585-9468 or Don Treat at 585-3166.

The Laurel Lake Ledger is the official Newsletter of the Laurel Lake Association, Fitzwilliam, N.H. Two issues, Summer and Winter, are mailed to its membership. Every effort is made to report accurately, however, the Ledger and its editor are not responsible for errors that may occur. Corrections will appear in the following issue.

## 1990 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Last year's membership drive was spearheaded by Milt Posovsky. He was not only chairman of the drive, he almost single-handedly visited every camp on the lake to sign up members and collect dues. This year Milt and his lovely wife Anne have taken a trip to the British Isles. He asked members of the board to help him during his absence. Several board members volunteered their time to do the campaigning in their neighborhood. I volunteered to do the southern part of East Lake Road. It was a wonderful experience visiting many of my neighbors whom I have never met in the six seasons that I have been on Laurel Lake. It has also given me a great appreciation for the job that Milt did over the past years when he single handedly took on the entire job himself.

At last count we had well over 100 members, which is good for this early in the season. Milt has asked me to remind everyone that if there is more than one family using a particular camp or home, that each family should pay a separate \$5.00 dues. This is the reason why the dues are kept low, so that it would be easy for every family to participate.

We would like to thank the following volunteers who canvassed their neighborhoods for memberships:

Jim & Midge Deyo  
Bill & Brenda Hoag  
Ed & Margaret Albertini  
Karl & Joanne Anderson  
George Graf  
Milt Posovsky  
Larry Friedman  
Bruce Knight  
Don Garland



Milt Posovsky, Chairman of the membership committee and Virginia Nevins, a board member, at the Board of Directors meeting. George Graf, Director of the Lake Quality Commission is in the background.



# LAURELS OF THE LAKE

by: Elizabeth V. Samuels

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet."

Sounded good in Romeo and Juliet, but does it really hang true? South Pond...that's what Laurel Lake used to be called. Try that on. South Pond. South Pond Association. No way! Especially not in June and July when the laurel's in bloom! It is easy to imagine why Thomas Blodgett decided, after erecting the first "lake cottage" in 1892, to put up signs that renamed the South Pond as Laurel Lake. Here's how I like to imagine it.....

Tom awoke on a fine morning in late June. The air felt cool and damp as he eased himself out of bed.

Not one to linger inside on such a fine day, Tom quickly pulled on his gear and stepped outdoors into the woods to survey his new domain. Mists were rising from the lake shore below, and Tom was drawn to the water's edge to witness his first glimpse of the new day beneath an open sky.

Following the shady path down to the water, Tom was buffeted by dense masses of laurel that were interwoven in the sunny patches left open by the overhanging limbs.

As he reached the shore, Tom saw in the clearing of the lake, the radiance of the sun reflected in the shifting mist of the water. It glistened and shimmered.

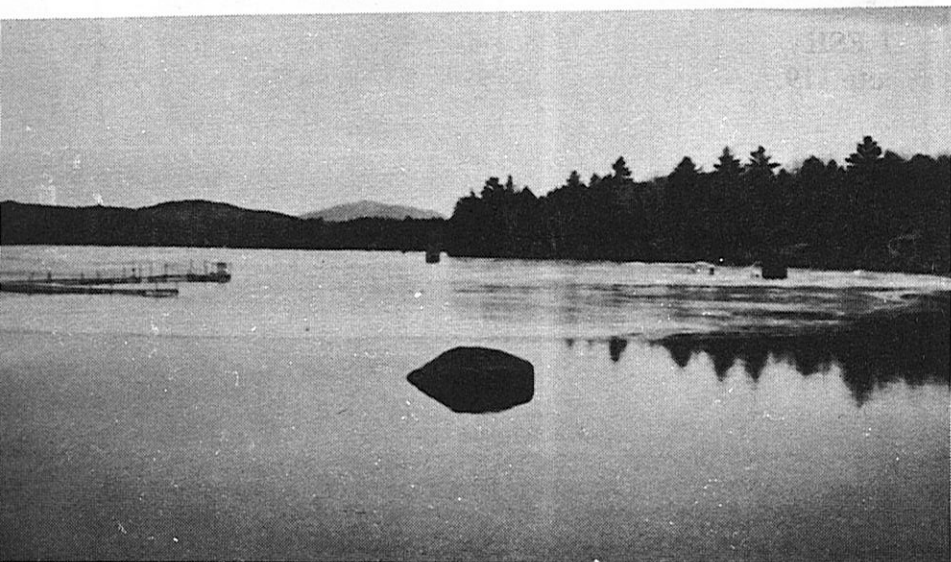
Floating on its edge was an iridescent halo of pink and blue, like a moonstone or the Northern Lights.

Tom stood in silence in awe as he recognized the exquisite beauty of nature's own creation. As the mists began to lift like a curtain of lace, the bank of opalescence lingered and shimmered with even more radiance. Focusing his eyes in disbelief, he saw more clearly now that this was not an illusion.

It was a true wreath of laurel blooming and reflecting its palette of pinks and whites and greens in the blue and purple shadings of the water's edge. The lake had become laurel.

And as it was so, Tom decided to call it such.....

Well, what is in a name anyway? We've gone from South Pond to Laurel Lake.



Laurel Lake in January. Notice the south end of the lake isn't frozen.

Seems fine, and no one was really bothered about this name calling stuff, but it appears we have a little more adjusting to do before I get down to the real reason for this piece - laurel. Mountain laurel, the magnificent shrub by which Tom Blodgett was inspired, is not really "laurel" after all.

It's a type of heath (Ericaceae), better known in botanical circles as *Kalmia latifolia*. (*Kalmia latifolia* Lake??)

The name *Kalmia* honors the work of Peter Kalm, a student of Linnseus, who traveled in this country in the early 18th century, and greatly admired these plants. There are five *Kalmia* species.

Because of its superficial resemblance to the green bay-tree, or American laurel, and because of its natural habitat, *Kalmia latifolia* is more commonly known as Mountain Laurel. Be careful with that nickname, though. One of my children asked me if the laurel around the lake is like the bay-laurel leaves I frequently add to stews and gumbo. Not on your life! Mountain Laurel, like its other *Kalmia* relatives, is considered poisonous to livestock, particularly to calves, lambs, or to animals which include large portions of it in their diets.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture reports that there have been fatalities from honey made from this plant!

Personally, I wouldn't go into a panic about the lethal qualities of Mountain Laurel; however, I wouldn't add it to the soup, either!

Mountain Laurel is prized by gardeners and nature lovers for its vibrant evergreen foliage, and for its exquisite and abundant flowers.

It is a dense, broad shrub, ranging from five to ten feet in height, although it may reach even greater heights under optimum conditions. It ranges from New England and New York, south to Florida; west to Louisiana, and north to Indiana. It blooms between May and August, though we can usually count on a showy display between mid-June to Mid-July.

Mountain Laurel belongs to the same family as *Rhododendrons* and *Azaleas* (Ericaceae), and like its relatives, enjoys acid soil with an ample supply of organic material. Mountain Laurel is relatively easy to grow and is tolerant of many conditions and all soils (except those containing lime).

Although it prefers partial shade, and can adapt from full sun to deep shade, Mountain Laurel needs sunlight for profuse flowering.

The color of the flowers has been described as being sensitive to the action of light upon its flowers, with more intense color in bright sun, fading to the whitest white in the deep forest.



Beautiful Mountain Laurel in mid June on the shores of Laurel Lake, N.H.

We think of Mountain Laurels as being pink, but their delicate coloring vary according to the progress of their development. Commercial varieties include the *rubrum* and *alba* (red and white) varieties of Mountain Laurel, and are your best bet when looking for a more distinct color type.

Mountain Laurel is a hardy shrub. When it becomes unruly or loses its lower leaves, it can be rejuvenated by being cut back to within a few inches of the ground in the early spring. This, combined with the addition of an acid fertilizer and organic mulch, will ensure and encourage new growth. Leaf spot and blight sometimes attack Laurel, but these diseases can be managed with appropriate care.

The most common danger for Mountain Laurel is the vandalizing of its habitat by misguided people who dig plants up from the wild to landscape their property. Mountain Laurel, in a protected environment, is a long-lived shrub; some large plants have been known to have over 100 tree rings!!

One of the most interesting attributes of the Mountain Laurel flower is its adaptation for cross-fertilization. Each little flower, or corolla-cup contains five united lobes. Within every lobe are two pockets with a stamen tucked into each. As the flower opens, the stigma appears erect in the very center of the flower. As the flowers mature, the stamens are triggered to pop out of their pockets by the actions or weight of wandering bees or insects. The insects are "dusted" with the pollen, which they then transport to the next flower and its stigma. Nice work if you can get it.

So what is in the name? As for me, I'd love this lake even if it were still called South Pond, or if the name were changed to *Kalmia latifolia* Lake. The words don't matter a whole lot. What would give me trouble is imagining the shores of these waters without the glorious display that greeted Thomas Blodgett on summer mornings in 1892.

The exquisite beauty of nature's own creation.....as the Lake becomes Laurel.

## RECYCLING...A FACT OF LIFE

Remember the day when all your trash went into an opaque plastic bag and then directly to the dump. Well, those days are gone forever. Environmentalists say the dumps are full and we have to find a way to get rid of our trash without bringing it to the landfill. They have decided that we can't burn it because that pollutes the air. We can't bury it at sea because it kills the fish and washes back up on the beaches. A logical solution is to recycle what we can and let the rest decompose in the ground.

I wrote to the town to get my dumping permit for summer residents. Before they would send it to me they made me sign a form promising to follow the rules. That sounded easy until I saw the process that they wanted me to follow. At first I found this process so complicated that I opted to take the trash back to Providence rather than fail to adhere to the terms of the Ordinance and risk losing my privilege to dump, (I mean recycle), in Fitzwilliam. After a few weeks this was not practical and after reading and rereading the separation procedure, I finally figured out that by putting about 10 different trash containers in our tiny kitchen, recycling was easy.

My biggest complaint is that our trash is no longer private. It's no longer hidden in those opaque plastic trash bags. Much of it is open for all to see.

The separation process really makes us aware of the terrible waste of natural resources by the American public. We used to generate about 5 bags of trash a weekend.

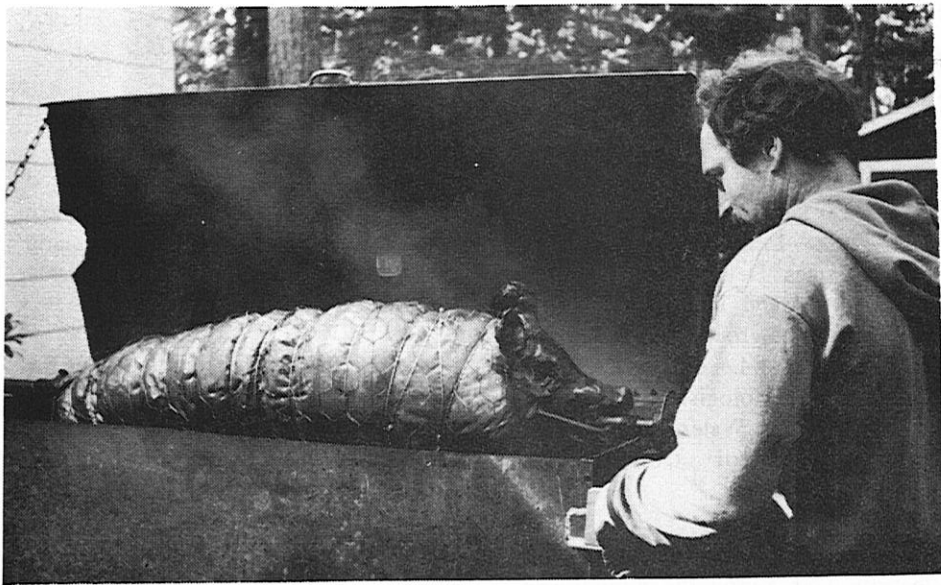
Now we only generate about one, the rest being recycled.

It's a difficult transition to have to separate after all those years of just dumping everything in one bag, but in the end I feel the extra effort will be worth it if, in fact, these items are really being recycled.

## BYLAW CHANGES

A committee has been set up to review and make the necessary changes to the bylaws of the Laurel Lake Association. The committee consists of John Dumont, Bruce Knight, and Don Garland. The present bylaws which date back to the 1950's need to be made more current. The Association has renewed its corporation status and according to the New Hampshire law, the corporation must have up-to-date bylaws. If you are a lawyer or a paralegal, or just find this topic of interest, and you want to volunteer some of your time in reading and upgrading our bylaws, I am sure these gentlemen would love to have your assistance. Please call Bruce Knight at 1-603-585-9549.





Vic Lepage roasts a 190 lb. pig at the Vaida/Lepage Pig Roast on the 4th of July. Just one of the many ways to celebrate the 4th on Laurel Lake.

## THE BACK ROADS OF FITZWILLIAM

by: Larry Friedman

I'm one of those people who takes a different road to work every day. It's my way of breaking up my normal routine and at the same time learning about what is going on in the community. My curiosity is no different on my weekends in Fitzwilliam.

During the summer of '86 when it rained every Saturday and Sunday of the summer, my wife Marilyn and I ran out of rainy day activities for our 3 children. Often I would just drive around exploring different roads. I found this fascinating; the kids grew tired of it. The one thing that prevented me from exploring many of the gravel based roads was my fear of getting stuck in some remote part of the woods.

For Father's Day, my wife and kids gave me a reproduction map of Fitzwilliam dated 1858. After studying the map at length, I discovered that there might be a short cut from Winchendon, MA to Laurel Lake. I decided to see if the road was still there. I convinced Jimmy Vaida, my neighbor, to take me in his four wheel drive Jeep Cherokee. He packed a "come along" winch just in case we got stuck.

We left our camps on East Lake Road and traveled south past the boat launch, taking a left on Howeville Road. At the top of the hill, we took a right at the old No. 3 School on Laurel Hill Road and then a quick left on Sandy Bottom Road. This road is gravel but in excellent condition. This road ends at the old Templeton Turnpike, which existed on a map of Fitzwilliam 1807. At that time

it was probably used by stage coaches. If you take a left you will eventually come out at No. 4 road and if you continue beyond that intersection, you will end up in Fitzwilliam Village.

We chose to take a right and head toward Winchendon, MA to find our short cut.

It takes me about 2 hours from Providence, RI to Laurel Lake. I've been looking for a way to shorten this trip. At this point, I think the Old Templeton Turnpike might be that short cut I've been looking for. I feel like Christopher Columbus looking for a short cut to India.

The road south was in surprisingly good condition, until you hit the Massachusetts border. A granite marker on your left, dated in the early 1800's, tells you that you have reached Massachusetts. There is no sign about the Massachusetts Gun Law. The old map indicates that this is the site of a toll house for this road. The road deteriorated quickly once over the border.

The Jeep bounced up and down on the uneven road. Our heads were hitting the ceiling. We had to slow down. We drove a considerable distance into Massachusetts before we realized that nobody comes down this road anymore. I kind of doubted whether I would see Winchendon on this route.

Suddenly I noticed a vehicle approaching us. I made it out to be a pick-up carrying a large box in the back. We pulled off the road to let him pass, but he stopped to ask directions. He was lost! The driver rolled his window down. The sign on his door said GoodYear Tires, Paris, Maine. Jimmy and I looked at each other.

What was he doing here? The driver was attempting to deliver a new refrigerator to a name we certainly didn't recognize. He didn't know what state he was in or what state he was delivering the appliance to. All he knew was the house was 2/10's of a mile south of Number 4 Road and the phone number was a 585 exchange. We told him he was in Massachusetts and to continue North to New Hampshire. We continued on our way to Winchendon. After about a mile we came to a sign which was facing the opposite direction. As we passed it I turned around to read it. It read "Road Closed."

We continued on by taking a left on Deland Road. Here we found several new homes. Civilization was near! We crossed a bridge over Priest Brook and headed east. We then took a right on Brooks Road. The homes were getting larger. Brooks Road ends at Winchendon River St. We took a left and drove over the Miller River next to the Winchendon Sewage Disposal Plant. This took us to route 202 in Winchendon.

The road is probably shorter than traveling Route 12 north and doubling back to Laurel Lake, but the surface of the road will not make you popular with your passengers.

The back roads are a real adventure if you have the right vehicle. Hopefully next Father's Day the kids will buy me a 4-wheel drive Jeep.

## SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to thank my secretary, Donna Ellis, who typed the copy for this issue of the Ledger. Without her help, this summer issue would not have come out in time for the annual meeting. We used WordPerfect Wordprocessing and a Hewlett Packard Laser Jet III to produce the text and a Canon NP3725 to make the copies.

## INSECTS CONTROL WEEDS

excerpt from Boston Globe

MIDDLEBURY, Vt.-Three tiny bugs found in a pond in northern Vermont may be the long-sought antidote for Eurasian milfoil, a prolific water weed that has been choking lakes in New England and across the country.

The underwater plant, which came to North America from Europe several decades ago, spreads from lake to lake in pieces caught in the propellers of motorboats. One milfoil scrap is capable of filling a whole lake with blooms that can grow to 20 feet and strangle a variety of native plants.

Environmental agencies and lake associations have tried drawing down water levels, spreading plastic on lake bottoms, cutting the weed with mechanical harvesters and introducing plant-eating carp, all without much success.

The plant has spread across the country and into Canada. The states working hardest to combat the problem include Vermont, New York, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Washington and much of the South. Milfoil has also appeared in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Two years ago, Brownington Pond, a small northern Vermont lake, had been overrun with milfoil. But last month, Middlebury College botanist Sallie Sheldon was called to the Lake by two state field researchers who said a new inspection revealed the weed had been decimated.

What little weed was left had been infested with several insects - including

*Acentropus niveus*, a comma-sized caterpillar that Sheldon was studying. The caterpillar had been credited with destroying milfoil in two Ontario lakes two years ago.

When Sheldon arrived at the pond and dove underwater, "I was completely surprised," she said yesterday. "This milfoil looked terrible. I'd never seen milfoil look terrible."

"The milfoil was completely overrun with two caterpillars, a weevil and a whole bunch of other aquatic insects." Even more encouraging, she said, native plants appeared to be thriving again.

Sheldon learned that both species of caterpillars and the weevil are native to Europe, as is the milfoil, and feed on it there. In Europe, the milfoil does not spread uncontrollably. Sheldon said experts have no idea how the bugs got into Brownington Pond.

Yesterday, Sheldon appeared with several state officials in a Middlebury College science lab to say they will spend the next year studying what happened in Brownington Pond, trying to figure out whether the three insects or some combination of them may be a natural answer to the milfoil plague.

"We have an enormous amount of hope," she said.

"It's too early to tell, but this is the most wonderful thing that I've ever seen," said Evelyn Stagg, a Democratic state representative who lives on Vermont's Lake Bomoseen, one of the most infested lakes. For a decade, milfoil has at times made it almost impossible to swim, boat or fish in Bomoseen.

Aside from their voracious taste for Eurasian milfoil, the three water-dwelling insects - *Acentropus*, a caterpillar called *Paraponyx*, and a weevil called *Dactylus* - so far appear to be benign, Sheldon said. However, a number of questions remain unanswered, the scientist and state officials said.

"This really has tremendous significance for the area," said Timothy Van Zandt, Vermont fish and wildlife commissioner. The state has spent as much as \$250,000 a year during the 1980's trying to combat the problem, he said.

"The obvious thing to look for," said Sheldon of the insects, "is what do they eat next?"



"FRESH DUCK EGGS FOR SALE" just north of the Depot on Route 119.

## EDITOR NEEDS YOUR HELP

I hope you found this issue of the Laurel Lake Ledger interesting and informative. I do have one special request from you, our readers. Please send me some of your thoughts about Laurel Lake, interesting things that you saw or participated in during this season or previous seasons. Places you like to visit around New Hampshire that you feel others may also enjoy. I will print these in our next issue. Don't worry about spelling or grammar. I will try to correct any mistakes I find. I recently had a wonderful meal at the Monadnock

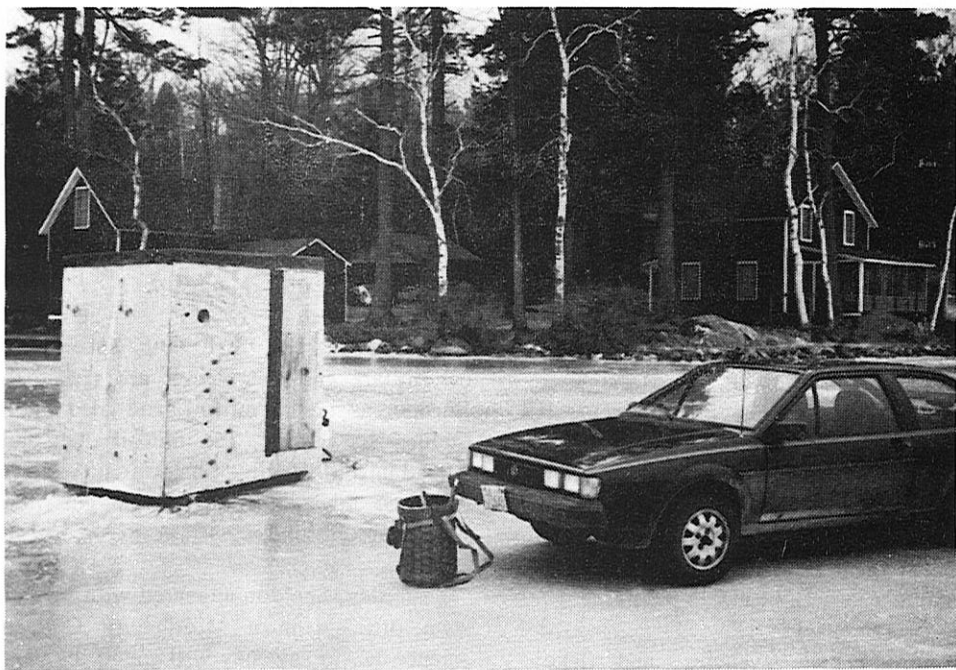
Inn in Jaffrey. The food and atmosphere was the best that I've found in the area. If you know of any other good eating spots or points of interest, send them to me and I'll publish them.

Send articles to:

Larry Friedman  
265 Freeman Pkwy.  
Providence, RI 02906

Please include your phone number in case I have a question. Thanks.





Ice fishing on Laurel Lake. You can drive right up to your fishing shack!

# LAUNDRY DETERGENTS IN OUR LAKES

FROM STATE OF N.H. BULLETIN

## Two major components: Surfactants and Builders

Synthetic laundry detergents have been considered major contributors to water pollution. Detergents have two major components: surfactants and builders. Surfactants, or surface-active agents, clean by replacing dirt and help carry the dirt away. Builders ensure the action of the detergent by preventing the neutralization of the surfactants by ions.

## Phosphorus nutrients → growth of algae and weeds

The drawback to the builders is the fact that they are comprised of phosphorus. Phosphorus is the limiting nutrient in lakes and ponds. Therefore, more phosphorus entering lake waters means more algae and weed growth within the lake. Lakes age through a process called eutrophication. This aging process is hastened by the addition of nutrients such as phosphates.

## Biodegradable surfactants

Before the mid-1960's, surfactants were not biodegradable. They often produced a foam in streams and lakes. Now most surfactants are biodegradable and the problem of foaming in streams by detergents has been greatly reduced.

## Keeping phosphorus out of lakes

Residents in lake shore areas or within watersheds can reduce the amount of phosphorus entering lakes by refraining

from activities which involve detergents, soaps, and shampoos near the lakes. These activities include bathing or shampooing in lakes and washing animals or autos in or near lakes, streams, or drainage ditches.

Always use non-phosphate (or trace amount) detergents in your home. Never use a detergent that fails to list phosphate content on its label. (See the listing below of low-phosphorus laundry and dish detergents.)

## Use low phosphate-biogradable detergents

In recent years, voluntary decrease in the phosphorus content in detergent formulation has taken place across the U.S. A search is presently underway for other builders not made of phosphorus and for surfactants that do not require builders. Meanwhile, lake shore residents can do their part to protect lakes by being careful consumers.

Remember - phosphorus accelerates the aging process of a lake. So, save your lake by using non-phosphate, biodegradable detergent and by refraining from activities in or near the lake that involve soaps, shampoos, or detergents.

The following is a list of safe detergents:

### Liquid Clothes Detergents

- All
- Arm and Hammer
- Bold 3
- Bright Water Bleach
- Clorox Bleach
- Dynamo
- Purex
- Snowy Bleach
- Solo
- Staff Bleach
- Tide
- Vivid
- Wisk
- Woolite
- Yes
- Surf

### Powder Clothes Detergents

- Ajax
- All
- Arm and Hammer
- Borateem
- Borax
- Bright Water
- Cold Power
- Ivory Snow
- Rinso

### Liquid Dish Detergents

- Ajax
- Dawn
- Dermassage
- Dove
- Ivory
- Joy
- Lux
- Mega
- Octagon
- Palmolive
- Sunlight
- Valu time

# LAY MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETS

The first meeting of the committee for this year was held at the Treats' Cottage on June 29th. In attendance were Don Garland, James Deyo, George Graff, Barbara Green and Don Treat. Two guests joined the group: Bruce Knight, President of Laurel Lake Associates; and Natalie Nigra, a Biologist from the New Hampshire State Water Supply and Pollution Control Commission, Limnology Division.

Bruce reported he had discussed with Selectman Tom Parker the committee's recommendation that signs be posted asking boaters to remove and properly dispose of any exotic weeds attached to boats, propellers, or trailers before launching, and that Selectman Parker agreed. Natalie offered to provide Bruce with copies of a sign produced by the State.

Several committee members reported that the pump at the spring on Eastlake Road had been removed, thus reducing the hazard of people drinking unsafe water.

In order to keep a sharp look-out for the appearance of exotic weeds in Laurel Lake, the committee decided to solicit help from the general membership (fishermen especially) at the July meeting of the Association.

After setting dates and accepting volunteers to sample the lake in July and August, several members joined Natalie in obtaining samples of water from various depths and locations, and in taking a variety of measurements of physical and chemical properties of the lake.



Dick Webber's Depot store has it all. A cold beer, night crawlers, propane, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream, a good video....what more do you need?

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Danger on Laurel Lake

Received your Laurel Lake Ledger and was greatly impressed with it. You wanted some news for your Ledger to inform your membership about what's going on at the Lake.

Well, we had an incident this summer that calls for some investigating. It seems that an inboard-outboard speed boat cut thru the life buoys at Laurel Lake Beach Campground about 20 feet from shore and also cut thru the line anchored to another boat, which sent said boat crashing to the rocks on shore and put a big hole in it.

It's speed boats like that, that make it hard on the others. The boat and driver were seen by one of the campers and will be pointed out to us next summer, if still around. The reason why the party who saw him never came forward till now is that she was called home with some family problems. When she came back to close camp for the season, she mentioned to some of the campers that she saw the culprit who cut thru the buoys and other boat ropes - ruining the other boat. A lot of the campers think that there is more horsepower on boats than called for. It's a small lake and these 125 hp boats are too much for the Lake, especially with canoes and sailboats about. It's dangerous and we think someone is going to get hurt soon. Especially with the likes of the one that cut thru the campground beach 20ft from shore. You can mention this in your Ledger - its not my idea - but the idea of quite a few older people who enjoy the

lake also, and canoeing and boating.

John Vitone  
Clinton, MA

## Beautifying Laurel Lake

My/our congratulations for an excellent job in writing and issuing Vol. 2, No. 2 issue of the Laurel Lake Ledger. It sure is "something new" for the Association and Lake people and we hope there will be more issues just as newsy, attractive and informing to newcomers particularly. It was well arranged, very readable and on receipt warranted immediate attention. Keep up the good work!

As a summer resident since 1936, and having had a minor part in the Association's early days, there is still, particularly now, a need for members to unite and work together for the welfare of our beautiful lake and surrounding properties. There remains MUCH to be done by the individual land owners towards maintaining their grounds, such as clearing fallen trees, limbs and branches, as well as the Fall's accumulated leaves (which attract mosquitoes and other bugs), such as we do each Fall, rather than fly-time in the Spring. There's still plenty to do to make properties look "clean."

Good luck!

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus M. Dolbeare  
Keene, NH



# AN INTERESTING THOUGHT

by: Bruce Wells

In this day of modern technology, you can get on a plane at Logan Airport in Boston, Massachusetts and be checking into your hotel room in Paris, France before the sound waves of the person shouting good-bye at the plane even arrive. We can land a man on the moon or travel for weeks at a time in space. We also have the frightening capacity to obliterate mankind, as we know it, in about an hour's time.

With all these wonders going on around us every day, it would be easy to take for granted a commodity which has been on this earth since the beginning of time. Mother Nature creates and distributes this product freely in certain parts of the world. Yet millions of dollars are spent each year in the manufacture, procurement and preservation of this marvel of nature.

This commodity has also been on the market for a relatively short time, when one considers how long civilization has been in existence, but anyone who uses it with any frequency would not want to do without it. Some sporting events and certain businesses could not exist at all without it.

The ethnic, cultural and social value of this ancient wonder can only be harnessed by the limits of the human imagination. Considering the fact that millions, perhaps billions, of people use this product every day without giving it a second thought it's difficult to imagine there are people in this world who have

never heard of, seen, or used this commodity themselves.

I'd be willing to wager a week's pay that less than three percent of the people reading this article have the slightest idea of what this mysterious luxury of necessity could be, so I guess it's time to let the cat out of the bag. This magnificent product is ICE! Please read on.

A lot of claims were made of ice in this article, further consideration of ice will prove them all to be true.

First: The social importance: Imagine yourself and your spouse walking into a gala party or benefit and the first thing you see is a magnificent sculpture of frozen

water. You would probably think, "classy joint", and as first impressions are lasting impressions, you probably would have a good time.

Second: In the culture we live in today, could you imagine sitting in a hot saloon drinking warm straight whiskey? Or being in your favorite night club or lounge and drinking a warm Margarita? So ice has changed our culture. I personally can't remember the last time I saw a gunfight in my favorite watering hole.

How much land mass of this planet is covered with ice? Think of the cost to make ice and keep it frozen. How many people in under-developed, third world countries have ice makers in their refrigerators, or even have refrigerators? Think of being out on the Sarangetti Plain and dehydration is setting in, most people I

know would sell their souls to the devil for a glass of ice water. True, there are some people who have never seen ice.

In truth, the real purpose of this article is not about ice at all. Hopefully, it will remind people that we are now experiencing the highest standard of living the world has ever known. We all take so many things for granted here in America. Don't feel bad, it's human nature. It's really easy to get used to creature comforts and ice is just one of the many.

Throughout the history of America, men and women have fought and given us their lives for the preservation of the American way. Even with all the oppression going on all over the world, people seldom give it a second thought. It's just a way of life.

Neither America nor any other country is perfect, but we do have it pretty good here. We have something here that people around the world can only dream of. Freedom. We can think what we want, say what we want, believe in the God of our choice and pray, and go to church any time or any place we choose.

So while your enjoying the company of loved ones and friends this summer season, and hear the tinkle of ice cubes over the merriment of laughter and conversation, count your blessings and think of how fortunate you really are.

## CHEAP INSURANCE

You wouldn't think of owning a cottage on Laurel Lake without protecting your investment with an insurance policy costing a few hundred dollars a year. If you had a valuable car or boat you would buy insurance on that too.

All of us who own or rent on Laurel Lake have another investment that we want to protect. That investment is the quality of the water in the Lake.

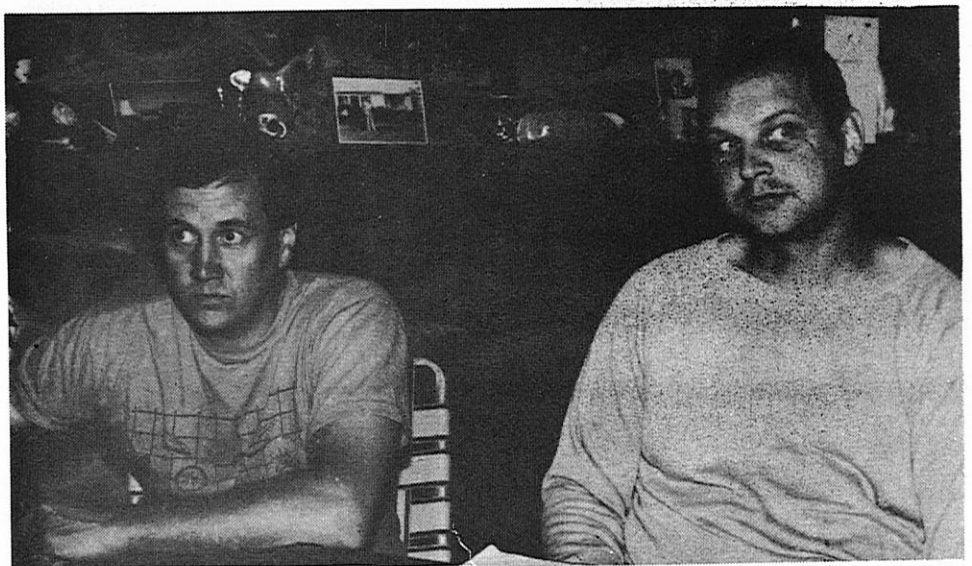
If the water was of poor quality we probably would not have purchased a home on or near the Lake. One of the reasons the quality has remained high is because a few individuals back in the 1950's determined that an organization of concerned citizens keeping a watch on the Lake would be the best way to protect their investment. Keeping this organization strong and active is up to all of us. You can help by doing two things:

1. Make sure that every family that uses your home on the Lake joins the Association. The cost is only \$5.00 per

family. Consider this a cheap insurance policy. For \$5.00 per year you know you are keeping an organization alive that is watching out for your best interest. It's easy to join, just send \$5.00 to Mr. Don Austin, N. Main St., Troy, N.H. 03465. Give him your name, permanent address and address on or near Laurel Lake. Indicate if your summer address is a mailing address or not. Both phone numbers are also helpful.

2. Get involved in the organization. Call Bruce Knight at (603)585-9549 and tell him what your interests are. It's a great way to meet people like yourself whose interest is in keeping the quality of life around the Lake at today's high standard.

Your active participation in this organization is your best protection, your best "insurance" that life on the Lake will be as good for your children as it is for you.



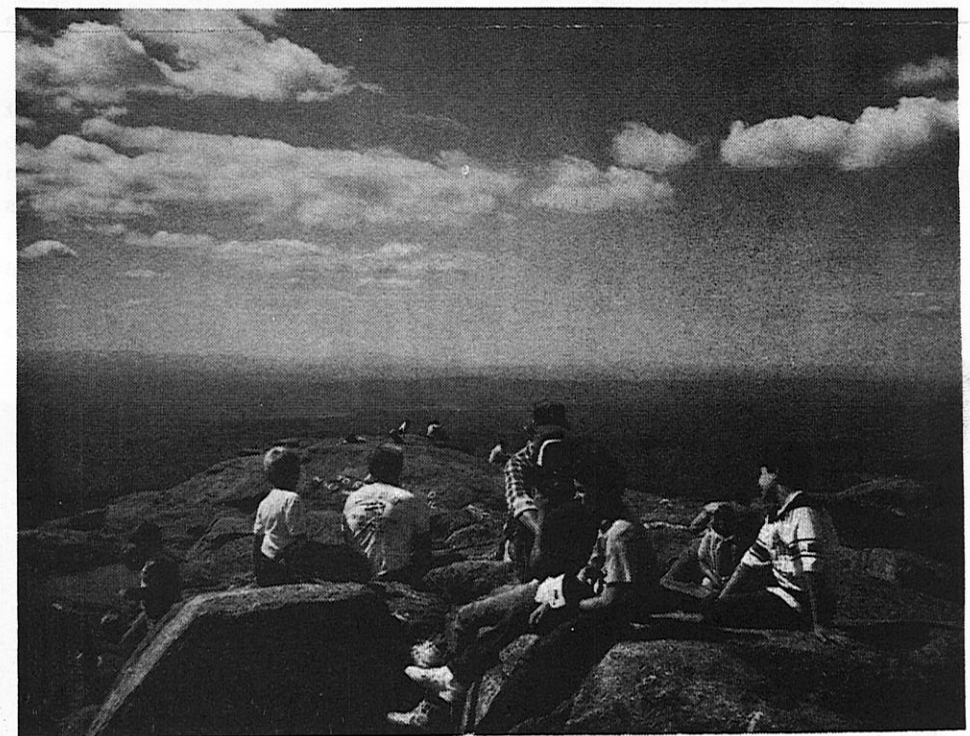
Bruce Knight (left) appoints Gus Hoyland (Right) to oversee the Laurel Lake Boating Rules and handle complaints from residents.

## BOAT REGISTRATION, FEES, & TAXES

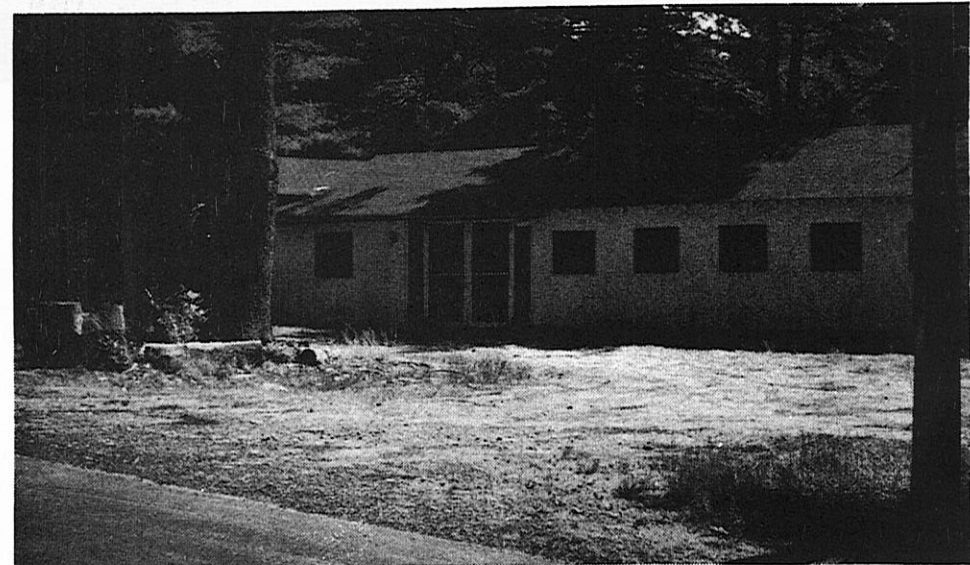
Required information is the year of manufacture, make of boat, length, hull material (fiberglass, wood, etc.) and hull serial number. Registration fees vary according to the size of the boat. Write the Division of Motor Vehicles or ask a dealer for further information.

In addition, boats may be liable for a town tax and other fees which must be paid before a boat can be used on inland waters. The amount of tax depends on the location of the boat in the spring, and its type, age, and length.

A non-resident is exempt from the tax if he has a receipt for taxes on the boat from another state; if the receipt is not available at the time of registration, requests for refunds can be made within 30 days by submitting it and a form to the Commissioner of Revenue Administration, Concord, NH 03301.



Looking for a good view? A hike to the top of Mt. Manadnock is worth the trip. It is the most climbed mountain in the United States.

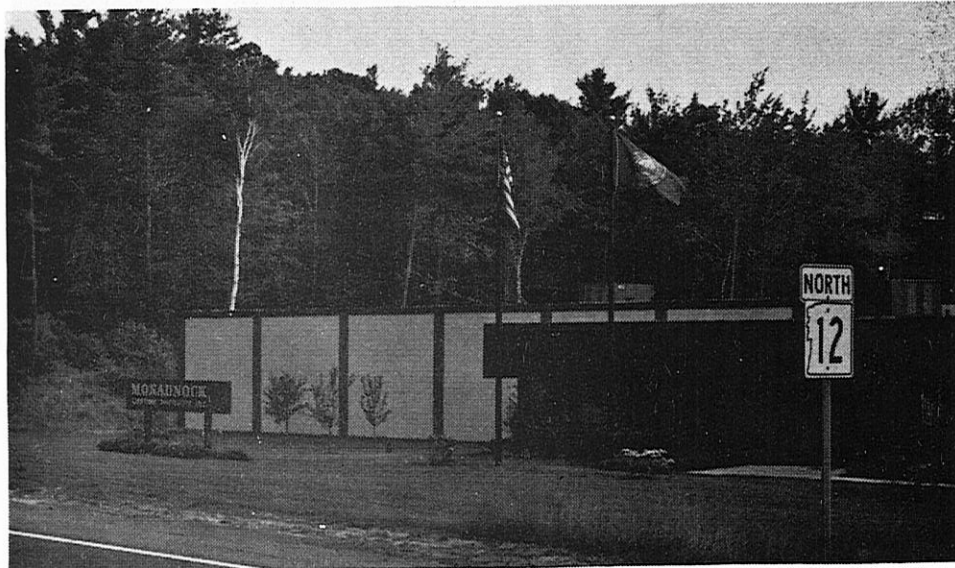


Don's Place, now closed, was a great-drop in center for the kids. Remember the "coke room?" Now there is no place for the kids to go on a rainy day.



## COMMENTARY

### "A BITTER PILL TO SWALLOW"



**Monadnock Lifetime Products on Route 12 is probably the world's largest manufacturer of billy clubs. Ouch! This company is one of the few manufacturers contributing to the tax base.**

I don't know of any lake front property owner who wasn't upset by the results of the recent real estate re-evaluation. As the editor of the Laurel Lake Ledger, I expected to get a lot of angry letters. I didn't get one. I believe once people pay a bill, they just want to forget about it and go on to other things. Of course, this tax bill comes around every year and now twice a year. The purpose of this article is not to get you angry all over again, but to rationalize why the taxes have to be high around the lake.

One of the attributes of Fitzwilliam is its never changing charm. According to Barbara Leith, a 50 year summer resident of the lake, not much has changed around here since she was a child. If anything, much of the industry and trade businesses have closed. The fact that we don't have any smokestack industry or large retail strip centers is good for the quality of life, but bad for the tax base.

According to a map of Fitzwilliam in 1858, Howe and Co. Tub and Pail Manufacturing was located at the south end of our lake. If it was still in existence today, it would probably be a

50,000 square foot factory with a two acre asphalt parking lot. One could only guess what chemicals they would be pouring into our lake.

They would also be paying their share of property taxes, shifting some of the burden away from us.

But Howe and Company no longer exists and neither does Reed's Granite Quarry or the train depot. The noise and the smells are gone and so are their tax revenues.

I don't know if you realize this yet, but if you own property on the edge of Laurel Lake, you are the tax base of Fitzwilliam. You pay about \$17.56 per lineal foot of water frontage per year plus the taxes on your home and improvement.

As a summer resident, I like the fact that Fitzwilliam is a sleepy little town with no real industry. But I also know that I'm going to have to pay higher property taxes because of this rural setting. In a state with no real income tax or sales tax, government and the schools must get their revenues from somebody. Unfortunately they had to choose us.



**You don't have to travel far for beautiful pottery. The Five Wings Studio in Fitzwilliam, south of the Depot, is one of the few manufacturers left in the area.**

## IN MEMORIUM

by: Don Garland

The death of Bill Woodruff brings much sorrow to the Laurel Lake Association. For many years Bill was very active in the Association and gave a great deal of time and effort to the organization.

He demonstrated this great love for Laurel Lake with his willingness to take on many tasks aimed at maintaining the integrity of our lovely body of water.

We all will miss him and our condolences go out to his wife and family.

## REGISTER

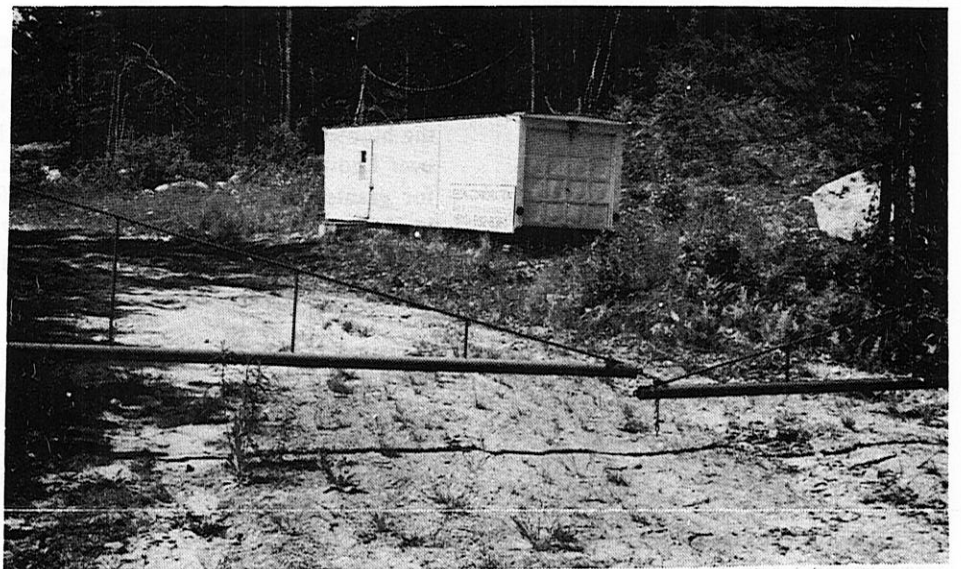
To enter the Laurel Lake Regatta  
All you need is a Sun Fish Sailboat

RACE: 10 AM Sunday, Sept 2, 1990

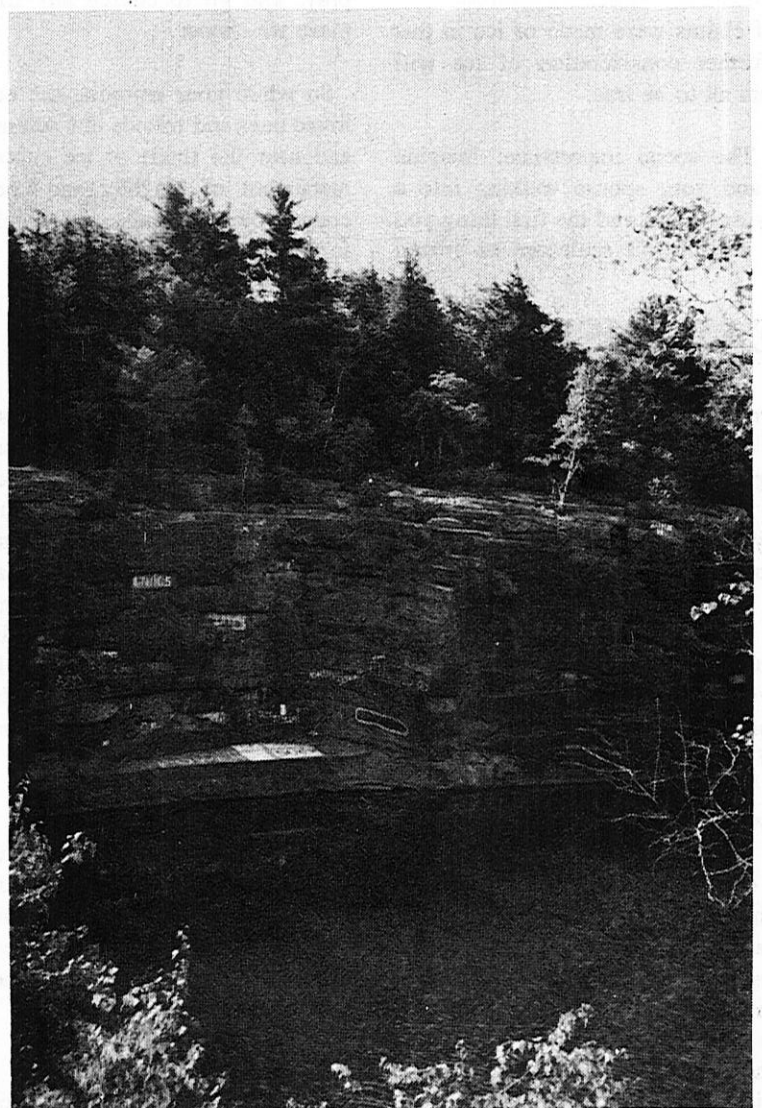
In case of rain or lack of wind, it will be held on Labor Day. We will call you with further information.

Send the name of the contestant, address and both permanent and Fitzwilliam phone numbers to:

Commodore Rob Prunier  
30 Laconia Road  
Worcester, MA 01609  
(508) 753-2418



**Seon Corporation trailer at the site of the old quarry. Will the residents of the town be able to prevent the owner from developing a rock crushing operation? Time will tell.**



**A view of the old quarry. The pit is now full of water and the walls are covered with graffiti.**