



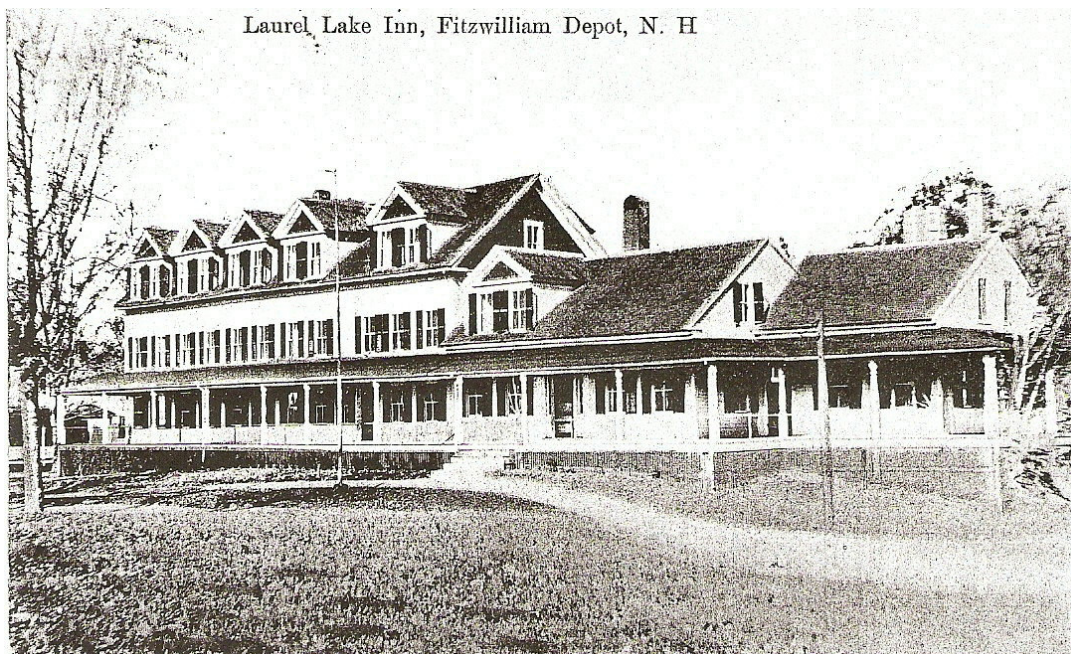
A Little Spot of Heaven

# **The Laurel Lake Ledger**

## **Laurel Lake Association**

### **24th Annual Newsletter Spring 2011**

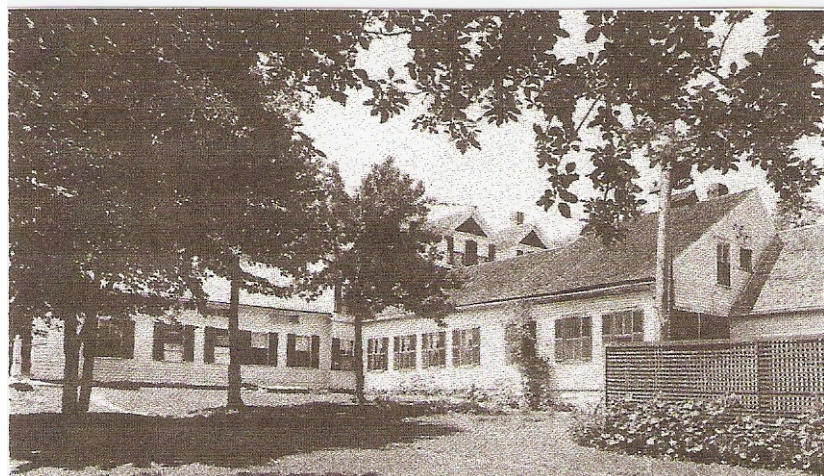
#### **THE LAUREL LAKE INN**



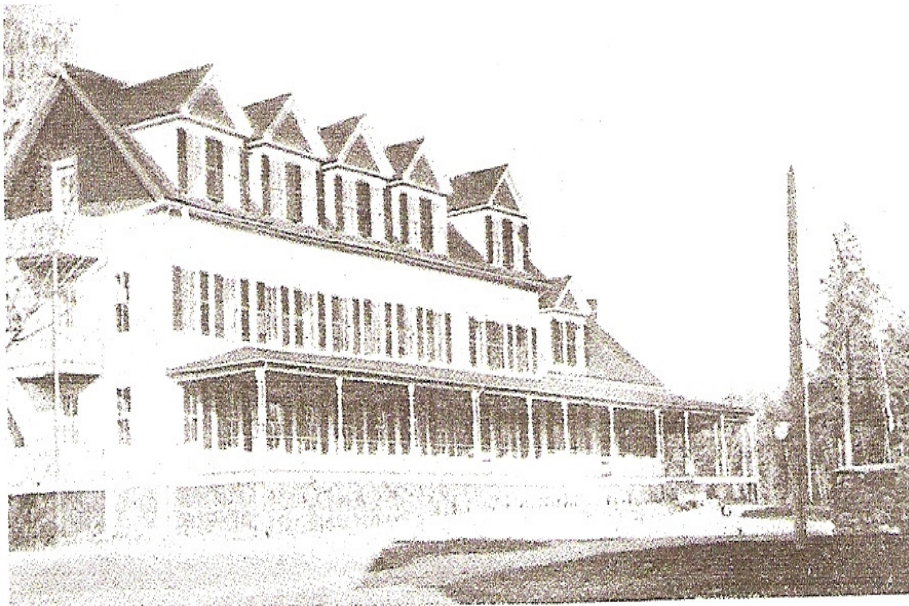
In order to understand the history of the Laurel Lake Inn, one must look at the background of the Howe Pail Factory run by Nelson and Joel Howe. By the 1850's and the 1860's, the two brothers were running the largest wooden pail factory manufacturing operation in Fitzwilliam. Over the years, they had acquired a large amount of acreage which extended from South Pond (Laurel Lake) and the Meadows (Sportsman's Pond). In the 1858 map, a large number of manufacturing facilities and Boarding Houses on both shorelines, appear to be operational.

By the 1870's, significant changes had occurred at the Howe Pail Factory. Throughout 1860's, the Pail Factory thrived with increased production and profits. But in 1867, Joel Howe became ill and died sometime afterwards. In 1868, Nelson

Howe sold the factories and all the properties to Seth Holman and his partner, Benjamin Haywood. Until 1886, the newly formed Holman and Haywood Pail and Tub factories operated continuously at both Laurel Lake and Sportsman's Pond. By the end of 1886, Holman and Haywood decided to stop manufacturing at Laurel Lake and moved the entire operation to Sportsman's Pond. In the 1877 map of Fitzwilliam, large amounts of land and buildings were readily available at the South End of Laurel Lake. Several factory buildings, storefronts and boardinghouses are identified on this map as being close to the lake. By 1892, Holman and Haywood sold the pail making operation to Hiram Derby. He would remain in operation until 1906.





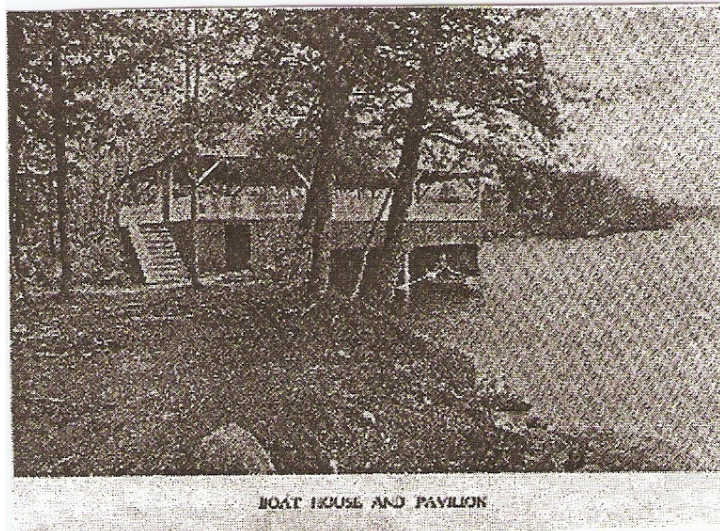


*Inn and Well Sweep at Laurel Lake, 1913*

By 1895, Holman and Haywood had decided to sell all the property and buildings at Laurel Lake. There were several business reasons for this. The manufacture of wooden pails were on the decline. Both men were living off their 1892 sale to Hiram Derby. Certainly, the taxes on the Laurel Lake waterfront were high as were the taxes on the physical buildings and the properties. The other factor was that cottages at Laurel Lake were beginning to dot the Eastern Shore. The first cottage to go up was in 1892 when Thomas Blodgett discovered the grandeur of Laurel Lake. Lilly Forestall (also identified as Mrs. J) in the 1892 Fitzwilliam map, was the successful buyer of the property. In 1897, she hired Henry Tenny to transform the old boarding houses into a contemporary Inn of the 20th Century.

Once open for business, the Inn provided dinner daily at 1:00 PM for the price of a dollar per person. It also offered fresh vegetables, milk, and berries. The other amenities included rooms with private baths, electric lights, and steam heat. For entertainment, boating, bathing, fishing, tennis, pool, and billiards were available. Lilly Forestall also had the business sense of hiring different proprietors over the years to handle the daily operations of running an Inn. Between the tourist trade on the Lake and the seasonal spring to fall operations at the Inn, business must have been good. A month before opening day in 1920, disaster struck the Inn on April 20 at 10:00 PM, when fire destroyed the entire building. Once the Fire Department arrived, the structure was declared a total loss at a value of \$50,000.00. Even to this day, it is suspected that arson played a role in the fire. On April 21, 1920, the Laurel Lake Inn was no more.

## Steve Olson



BOAT HOUSE AND PAVILION





## A Gutsy, Gusty Regatta



The Dresser-Friedman Regatta took place on Saturday, September 4, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. with a field of five boats. It was a brilliantly clear day but a challenging day for sailing. Spectators were treated to fast paced competition filled with excitement as one after another the swirling gusts flipped three of the contending boats. First, Tom White's boat capsized near Sandy Beach. Bill Samuels was the next to flip and lose his lead. Shortly afterward, Patrick McNamara capsized near the west side of the lake. Commodore Rob Prunier noted "This was the first time that three boats have capsized in a regatta due to uncertain wind gusts".

Spectators agreed that this was one of the best races in recent memory. A new course coupled with the unpredictable gusts guaranteed lots of excitement. The course had been redesigned for this regatta. Previously, boats took a zigzag course down the lake and returned to the finish line on a straight course. To make the course more interesting, this year's course zigzagged both down and back. A fast start, lots of flips and near misses, and a close finish added up to a great regatta.

Tom White, who hadn't participated in the regatta for many years, returned from Florida and took first place. Bill Samuels came in second and Jeff Prunier took third place. Commodore Prunier presented trophies to the winners at the Dresser camp.

We look forward to the 2011 Dresser-Friedman Regatta on Saturday, September 3rd at 10:00 a.m. Tom, look forward to hosting the awards party after the race! Sailors of all ages are invited to join in the regatta competition.

**Submitted by Beth Samuels**



The Winners: Tom White, Bill Samuels, Jeff Prunier. Photos courtesy of Dick Congdon



**2011 SUMMER EVENTS—LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**JUNE**

4th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at the house of Jackie Woodruff on Keene Avenue.

4th - 6:00 PM - The 14th 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 the Depot Store. (Regular road flares may contain phosphorous and can be bad for the lake. The flares at the Depot Store are safe for use by the lake.)

9th - 10:30 AM - The Annual meeting and family picnic will be held at White's Field, Keene Avenue. Harry Vogel, Executive Director/Senior Biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee will be the speaker. Children's games will be held after the picnic. Bring the kids & grandkids!

30th- 3:30 PM - Boat Parade (All boats invited). Theme: The letter 'G' (golf, geese, geeks, gardens, ghosts, etc.). We've added a new class: naked! Undecorated boats are welcome to join the parade around the lake. Come join the fun. Meet at Sunrise Rock on the West side of the lake. Music with Rick Kumpu & Robert Allwarden will be held at Sunrise Rock at 5:00 p.m.. Motor, paddle or sail over for it.

**AUGUST**

6th - 11:00 AM - The **21st** Annual Canoe/Kayak Race at Sandy Beach. Registration starts at 9:30 AM. Kids race at 11:00 a.m., 5 miler at 12:20, 2.5 mile at 12:30 p.m.

**SEPTEMBER**

3rd - 10:00 AM - The Dresser-Friedman Regatta . Rain date is Sept. 4

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 2011 Summer season.





## **MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION**

### **ODE TO SPRING:**

It is late this year if it has been here at all – It's Spring that I'm talking about, in case there was any doubt. I was up to the lake a few weeks ago and, while I did not try to "walk on the water", my dog did and stayed dry! Ice is out or very soft at the edge, but still there! It's hard to fathom how, despite it being, or appearing to be winter, there will shortly be a long lazy hot summer season following. I certainly hope so – we all have been through a few tough months – that is if we were the brave ones who stayed north of the Mason Dixon line! Warm weather will come! Believe it! In preparation, your Executive Board will be meeting soon to finalize plans for the Association members. We talked last year about increasing membership and I'd like to emphasize that again. We are keeping dues at a very reasonable level and it is likely that water testing costs – one of our significant interests and expenses – may be going up. The State is looking long and hard at their expenses associated with support of lakes and Lake Associations like ours. The miracle of the internet and the continuing interest of all the Board members, for which I am personally very grateful, will allowed us to come together in June to simply finalize our Summer schedule. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon in Fitzwilliam.

**Cal Perry and Mary Ann**

### **IN MEMORY OF**

**Donn Brackett**

A long time presence - and character - at Laurel Lake, Donn Brackett, passed away August 31, 2010 at the age of 81 at his winter home in Twentynine Palms, California. Donn was born in Athol, MA and, like his siblings, spent his whole life summering at Laurel Lake. He is best known for owning and operating the Coke Room on East Lake Rd. for 30 years, providing snacks, milk, ice cream, hot dogs, pool, pinball and candy to two generations of Lake denizens. The Coke Room was a place where kids could go with a dime or a quarter in their pocket and have fun for hours with friends. It was a welcome respite for teens who wanted to escape their parents at camp. An aspiring actor, Donn ran a summer theatre, Barraldon, in the 1950's & 1960's, with Saturday night shows on a stage behind the Coke Room. When in California he often appeared in bit rolls in TV shows, including an appearance on Lassie in 1957. In his later years, he produced some cable TV programs geared towards the elderly. He produced a movie, 'Death in the Quarry', in the 1950's, filmed in Fitzwilliam and at the quarries, that was a then serious but now campy horror flick. He produced a sequel in the mid-2000's, with 'talent' from the lake community, and only declining health kept him from making another sequel. Donn also wrote a history of running the Coke Room and a book of humor.

Donn loved his summers at Laurel Lake and made the trip back & forth to California every year, always bringing along a succession of dogs named 'Nutt'. He visited Sandy Beach every day, telling old and sometimes bad jokes, conning people into playing gin rummy for a quarter a game, talking to anyone who appeared. He was famous for his disreputable clothes (duct taped together sneakers, shirts with the sleeves missing), half collapsed beach chairs, faded, rotting beach umbrella, poker games, putting a towel over his head to light another cigar—and sometimes setting the towel on fire! He was also famous for his distinctive shallow water dive into the lake, done after a running start from the shore. Donn could be boisterous and maddening but certainly will be remembered and his unique presence will live on in stories for a very long time. He is survived by a sister-in-law, a brother-in-law and 16 nieces and nephews.



**IN MEMORY OF**

Milton Posovsky

Milt Posovsky, 90, passed away in October, 2010 in Carlsbad, CA. Milt was a significant presence in the Laurel Lake Association for many years. He was an Association booster and drove a major membership program that helped revive the Association. Milt had a wonderful personality and is remembered fondly by many. As a current Association Board member recalls “He heightened my awareness and that of others of how important it is that we are an open organization and lake community to people of many persuasions, and erase prejudice from our vocabulary. He was an ardent supporter of the ecumenical activities at Cathedral of the Pines then...and a witness for many of us about the richness, not threat, that can come from our diversity. He made a difference.” Milt owned and operated grocery stores in Winchendon, West Boylston and Oxford, MA. He and his wife Anne owned what is still known as the Posovsky camp on East Lake Road for many years before retiring to California. He is survived by his wife, 3 daughters and a son.

Wayne (Pepere) Rigg, Sr.

Wayne - ‘Pepere’ to all - Rigg, Sr., 76, passed away in March 2011 at his home in Winchendon, MA. Pepere and his beloved Memere (Marietta) had a camp on South Pond Road for 30 years, now more frequently used by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Pepere was an avid horseshoe player and several time winner of the “Old Fart” award for the oldest participant in the annual canoe race. In his non-lake life, Wayne had been a truck driver. He was an avid fisherman and member of the Lowell U.S. Bunting Club, a dart league. He is survived by his son and 3 daughters.

Paul Cormier

Paul Cormier, 49, of Royalston, MA passed away in December, 2010 after a long battle with lung cancer. Paul was an avid fisherman, spending hours fishing and ice fishing on Laurel Lake. His wife Patty’s family, the Moores, are long time White’s Grove campers. Paul is survived by Patty, 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren.

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

The current membership numbers for the 2010 membership year are:

254 Adults

20 Children

2 Youth

276 Total members in 147 Households

The final numbers for 2009 were: 285 Total members in 154 Households.

There are currently 46 members who have paid their 2011 dues.

As always, thanks for your continued support.

**Perry Nadeau**





## BENEATH THE SURFACE

Many of you reading this article have spent days, weeks, years and even decades admiring Laurel Lake and the spectacular landscape that showcases one of the cleanest lakes in the Monadnock region. For those of you that have had the pleasure to be on or near the water to see the loons dance or hear their haunting calls experienced another dimension of what makes Laurel Lake the place to be in the steamy summer months.

For most people Laurel Lake is about the quality of the water and view above the sparkling blue surface. For me, it has always been about the water and what happens beneath the surface. A clear lake without a healthy active ecosystem would be nothing more than a large swimming pool. When was the last time you saw a majestic osprey soaring above a swimming pool? I have been fortunate to visit and enjoy the lake since the early 1960's when my parents purchased the San Souci ('without a care') cottage in White's grove on the north end of the lake. My dad, 93 years young, still owns and stays at the camp in the summer.



As a young boy I spent countless hours with camp friends boating, swimming, skiing, hiking, exploring, gathering crayfish, catching frogs, occasionally live trapping a raccoon and fishing. Every activity was an adventure ... but my number one passion was and still is fishing. Even though fishing was the center piece of the lake experience, I was aware of and fascinated by how the land, wildlife and water quality are vital to a robust fishery. To that end I will share some observations and experiences as they relate to the changes I have observed over the past four plus decades.

In the 60's and 70's the lake teemed with life. Smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, yellow perch, white perch, brown trout, rainbow trout and brown bullheads provided some fantastic sport fishing. Many of those fish ended up as tasty meals at the camp. The shallows teemed with crayfish, salamanders, frogs, clams, small fish and turtles. In retrospect I realize the abundance of life in the shallows fueled the healthy game fish populations. At the time I took it for granted that any given day or night I could wade the shallows and catch a dozen salamanders or as many crayfish in an hour. Catching a stringer of perch was fast, fun and easy.

The lake shore and slightly inland is part of the extended ecosystem that feeds the beneath the surface ecology. On rainy days Keith Songer, Jeff Nevins and I would walk the trails around the lake's watershed in search of newts, frogs and toads. The woods came alive after a summer rain. All these creatures started their life beneath the surface and would someday return to the water to lay eggs that would start the next generation. The water and the quality of the water is the foundation of their life.

In the 80's and 90's I noticed some subtle shifts in the size, type, and quantity of native fish we caught. The once ever present yellow perch population declined, smallmouth bass were being replaced by the more aggressive largemouth bass and white perch all but vanished. The size of weight and of the fish was also in decline. However, thanks to a state sponsored trout stocking program ... the lake was alive with large hungry rainbow and brown trout. As a result, I shifted my focus to trout fishing. These farm raised fish are looking for a free meal any time they can get it. Over the years I have fine tuned my skills and techniques to catch these scrappy and colorful cold water loving fish almost any time of day and year. For example, last year in the middle of hot summer days, I regularly caught trout trolling from my boat with weighted line in 25 to 30 feet of water. If you see a black Lund fishing boat slowly crisscrossing the Lake in the middle of the day... chances are it is Luanne and me. If you see the boat before 8:00 in the morning, I will be with a local camper like my brother Gary, Bob Woodruff or someone else with passion for fishing and absorbing those first rays of sunshine. Stop by the boat for a local fishing report.

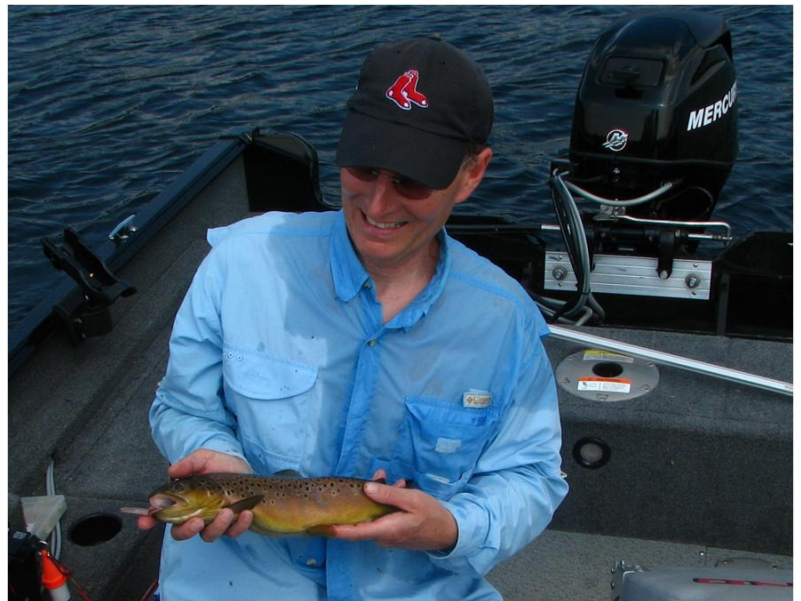


*(Beneath the Surface...continued)*

Although I enjoy catching trout my first passion was catching the scrappy native smallmouth bass which had thrived in clear cool waters. But the size and number of smallmouth bass have been in steadily decline since my early days at the lake. What happened beneath the surface to cause this shift in just a couple decades? Although I do not claim to understand the root cause of the decline of native fish, I can point to several factors that may be contributing to change.

In my humble opinion the first factor contributing to the decline of native fish starts with the introduction of hundreds of grown brown and rainbow trout each year. These fish are effective predators that will compete for food and consume native fish, salamanders, dragon fly nymphs and anything that swims or floats on the water. By definition these trout are an invasive species that can and will disrupt the natural equilibrium of the lake. Don't get me wrong—I am not suggesting they stop stocking trout. I love catching and eating them. But I did want to point out that the introduction of these alien predators in our lake is bound to upset the natural balance.

Next up is the disappearance of the shoreline creatures. Where have all natives gone? When was the last time you saw or heard a bullfrog croaking on a hot summer night? How about the spring peeper frogs singing shortly after ice out? Or one of my favorites ... the toads singing in late May as they attempt to attract a mate and lay their eggs in the shallows? Seen any sun turtles in your area? Has your grandchild captured any salamanders at the beach? Recently, has your spouse called your attention to an orange newt crawling through the pine needles of a damp rainy day? My guess, most of you would answer no. These creatures provide a source of food for the fish, raccoons, and birds. The decline of these shoreline creatures has reduced the food for the trout and other native fish.



Pat Deyo photos courtesy of Luanne Deyo

The final factor, although not new or a mystery, may be the most obvious and insidious: acid rain. Most native fish will thrive when the water pH is between 6.0 and 7.0. A pH below 6.0 will usually limit the growth and reproduction of fish. In 2004 the New Hampshire Departmental of Environmental Services identified Laurel Lake as one of 65 acid impaired ponds. The land surrounding the lake is not the best at buffering the acid rain runoff. As most of you know, New Hampshire is the granite state. Granite is not an effective acid rain buffer.

Unfortunately there is not much we can do to counter the rise in acidity. However I do have some thoughts on how we may mitigate and even reverse some of the decline in the size and numbers of native species.

Consider putting some rocks back into the lake and along the shoreline to create hiding places for the creatures of the shallows. Be careful not to disrupt or destroy the native aquatic weeds. These weeds are oxygenators, filters and breeding grounds for fish. Strategically locate old leaves, branches and stones next to your camp to create homes for the newts, toads and insects that sustain them. You may want to install a small water garden which will quickly and effectively attract lake loving dragon flies, spotted salamanders, and other reptiles that will enhance the entire ecosystem.





*(Beneath the Surface...continued)*

Take a friend, spouse, or other family member fishing. Catch some of those hungry trout, bring them home and have a fish fry. Removing some of those non-native trout will surely save the lives of many of the native fish. Fishing gives everyone the opportunity to connect with the life beneath the surface while enjoying the beauty that abounds above. You may get a chance to fish along side of the best fisherman on the lake ... the loons.

These small changes can make a big impact by strengthening the ecology in and around the lake. After all, the beauty of the lake is not just what we see above the surface. The real source of life in and around the lake is deeply rooted in what happens beneath the surface. We are the caretakers of Laurel Lake.

Lastly, listen and look for changes in an around the lake this summer. Luanne and I plan on doing our part to help out. You see, we have rather large bullfrog living in our koi pond in Princeton, MA. He is getting too big for our small pond and is looking for a new place to croak. He may join us at camp this summer.

See you on the water.

**Pat Deyo**

## We Want You!



The Laurel Lake Association and its events are run by volunteers—folks like you. Every event can always use another helping hand: look for weeds on a small section of the lake 2-3 times a summer; be a spotter boat, cook hotdogs or help park cars at the canoe race; haul a grill for the annual meeting cook-out; sweep floors and wipe down tables for the pot luck events; etc. We also welcome people who are interested in serving on the Board of Directors. There may not be openings every year but, like all volunteer organizations, people who have served for years need a break but keep serving if no one else steps up to fill the gap. The Nominating Committee is James Baldwin (Keene Ave.) and Barbara Dumont (Blue Heron Lane). Or, you can contact any of the current Board members and Committee Chairpersons (list on page 14) or send email to [ksolson@bigplanet.com](mailto:ksolson@bigplanet.com) and we'll give your name to the appropriate folks. It's a great way to meet other people and assist in keeping Laurel Lake clean and a good place to be. As the saying goes "many hands make light work".

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* To encourage the use of phosphate free products, the Laurel Lake Association has joined with the Fitz- \*  
 \* william Depot Store to stock a small supply of hand soaps (liquid & bar), general purpose cleaner and \*  
 \* dish detergent that are phosphorus free. If you run out at your camp or lake house, stop by the Depot \*  
 \* Store to replenish. Remember: phosphorous and nitrogen are bad for the lake. Let's keep it clean & \*  
 \* healthy. \*  
 \*\*\*\*\*



## LOON UPDATE - 2010-2011

It started interestingly enough around dusk on a September night in the 1990's when a Loon started singing its song over the waters of Laurel Lake. People with knowledge of the Lake had never heard a Loon. For the next few years, this single adult male would make its presence known in the Spring before Memorial Day and after Labor Day. However, in the summertime, the bird would disappear. Finally, in the mid-2000s, it attracted a female companion. The birds were strongly attracted to one another. Within a few years, the pair were commonly seen close to fishing boats and motor boats on the water during the daylight hours in the summer. On more than a few occasions, the two birds were seen swimming close to bathers around the shoreline. By the late 2000s, two mature Loons and an immature could be found regularly on the Lake.

By this time, several events were occurring that involved the birds. People around Laurel Lake were very interested that three Loons had taken up residence on the Lake. Through the efforts of Joe Larson, several professional individuals and organizations were made aware that Laurel Lake was a candidate for a possible nesting area. In 2007, Joe contacted the retired State of Massachusetts ornithologist who examined Laurel Lake and Sportsman's Pond and found that both locations were not conducive to Loon reproduction but that Sportsman's Pond has the potential for hosting a nesting raft. The other positive sign was that the Loon Preservation Committee recognized Laurel Lake as a Loon habitat area. In 2009 and 2010, the Laurel Lake Association participated in the annual Loon census on the Lake. In 2009, the two mature Loons were spotted at Sportsman's Pond and Laurel Lake. In 2010, no birds were counted in either location during the July census. However, by August, 2010, all three birds had returned to the Lake. Photographic evidence from 2010 is readily available. Below is a photograph from Gail and Pat Spicer of the two Mature Loons and the immature Loon taken off of Spicer's Point in late August, 2010.

Because of the interest generated by these Loons, the main speaker at this year's annual meeting will be Harry Vogel, the Executive Director and Senior Biologist from the Loon Preservation Committee. The meeting will be held at 10:30 AM in White's Field on July 9, 2011.

**Steve Olson**



Photo courtesy of Gail & Pat Spicer





## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2010 WATER TESTING RESULTS

The 2010 summer season was the 21st year of Laurel Lake's participation in the NH Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). It was a hot and dry summer compared to the unusually wet springs and summers that we had for several prior years. As a result, there was less stormwater runoff flowing into the lake.

In June, July and August, we collected several sets of water samples at different depths at the lake's deepest spot. Finding that 45-foot spot takes much less time, especially on windy days, since we acquired a depth-finder. Transparency measurements were made with a Secchi disk. Samples for *E. coli* testing were also collected at three swimming beaches. The tributary that flows into the north end of the lake continued to be monitored, since it was found to be contributing nutrients and coliform bacteria to the lake. Samples were delivered to the DES laboratory in Concord for testing for a number of biological, chemical and physical parameters.

We received the more comprehensive Biennial Report from the VLAP for 2010 that includes a statistical analysis of the results. The 2010 test results and historical data Laurel Lake are compared to medians for all 182 lakes in the NH program, as well as lakes that are similar to Laurel Lake in total water volume and maximum depth. A summary and discussion of some of the key findings follow.



Mary Ann Perry, Charlotte Perry, Barbara Green, Daniel Shrives

**Total Phosphorus:** Phosphorous is the limiting nutrient in New Hampshire lakes; the more phosphorous in a lake, the more growth of vascular aquatic plants and algae. Some of the sources of phosphorous in the lake's watershed are septic system effluent, animal waste, fertilizer, erosion of the shoreline and roadways, construction sites, and natural wetlands.

In 2010 the average deep spot phosphorous concentration in the upper water layer was ***much less than*** the state median and ***slightly less than*** the similar lake median. The statistical analysis of the historical data shows that Laurel Lake's ***upper and lower level phosphorous concentrations have not changed significantly from the time monitoring began in 1989 to the present.*** Since 1989 the average annual concentration in the upper layer has ranged between about 4 and 10 µg/L. Less than 10 µg/L is considered ideal. The average annual phosphorous concentrations in the lower layer has fluctuated between approximately 9 and 21 µg/L since 1989 and has remained close to the state and similar lake lower layer medians.

**Chlorophyll-a:** Algae (also called phytoplankton) are microscopic plants naturally found in lakes. Algae depend on phosphorous as a nutrient. They contain the plant pigment, chlorophyll-a, to make food by photosynthesis. Biologists use chlorophyll-a concentration as an estimate of the amount of algae present. ***Less than 5 mg/m<sup>3</sup> of water is considered good.*** The median 2010 summer chlorophyll-a concentration for New Hampshire's lakes is 4.58 mg/m<sup>3</sup>. ***The 2010 mean for Laurel Lake is 2.48 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.*** The statistical analysis of the historical data shows that Laurel Lake's chlorophyll-a concentration has ***significantly decreased (improved)*** on average by approximately ***3.24 percent per year*** during the sampling period 1989 to 2010. This is a very good trend! Residents should continue to take care to minimize phosphorous loading to the lake.



(water testing results ...continued from page 11)

**Transparency:** The average transparency (5.3 meters) for Laurel Lake in the summer of 2010 was better than the median summer transparency of New Hampshire's lakes and ponds (3.2 meters) and similar lakes and ponds (about 4.5 meters). Although that is encouraging, the statistical analysis of the historical data shows that Laurel Lake's transparency *has significantly decreased (worsened)* on average by approximately **1.07 percent per year** during the sampling period of 1989 to 2010. That is a total decline of over 20 percent! A closer look at the data shows a greater decrease in the lake's transparency in the past decade compared to the prior decade.



A key contributor to decreased transparency is stormwater runoff into the lake that carries soil particles, contaminants, and nutrients for the growth of algae and microorganisms. Severe weather during the 2005 to 2009 time period has surely impacted the water quality. Also, clearing, disturbing the soil, construction, and steep drive-ways and walkways to the shore increases runoff into the lake. To reverse the trend, it is important for lake residents to do everything possible to stabilize the shoreline and reduce erosion runoff. Stormwater management and modeling tools for the homeowner are now available on-line at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/stormwater/stormwater-mgmt-homeowners.htm>.

(No, we're not tipping over—just taking the water sample. It's not as easy as you think!)

**E.coli** concentrations (an indicator of fecal contamination) in all routine VLAP samples collected at the Public (south) beach, Sandy (north) beach and Swim Club were low *and much less than the state standard for safe swimming*. DES also monitors the public swimming beach and posts an advisory notice if the concentration of *E. coli* is considered unsafe. These events usually follow heavy rain and naturally clear within a few days.

**Tributary samples:** The tributary that flows into the north end of the lake has a history of elevated and fluctuating total phosphorous and *E. coli* concentrations at several sites along its path. Samples collected in June showed slightly elevated total phosphorous levels at the campground sites. Samples from the Keene Ave. culvert and a site near where the stream reached the lake showed *elevated phosphorous*. July samples, collected after a heavy rain, showed *elevated E. coli* levels at the culvert and near the lake. The tributary was completely dry when the August samples were collected. This area will continue to be monitored in 2011.

*Volunteer lake monitors in 2010 were Phyllis Lurvey, Perry and Roberta Nadeau, Kathy Olson, Mary Ann Perry and Charlotte, Daniel Shrives, Dana Wasserbauer and Barbara Green.*

*Note: Information in this report was included in the 2010 Biennial Report for Laurel Lake, Volunteer Lake Assessment Program, NH Department of Environmental Services. The full report is available on the web at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual-reports/2010/index.htm>.*

**Contributed by Barbara Green**



## 2010 WEED WATCH—LAUREL LAKE

Once again this year the weed watcher volunteers have reported NO exotic weeds in Laurel Lake. Ten of us did surveys on different sections of the lake in July and then again parts of the lake were done in August. The weather this year did limit the days on which we could do a survey.

On each report the watchers reported more weeds than in the past years especially early in the summer when the temperatures were so warm. There was much more Lobelia. But, again, nothing to be concerned about. We did find many more pond weeds, some of which were quite prolific. They had lots of grassy like growth from the bottom with small leaves floating on the surface. Also they were in deeper water. Also we noticed many more lily pads near the 3 markers out from Barbara Green's house. There seemed to be more Blatterwort too but of the native type.

All in all we are in good shape. Amy Smagula from DES in NH was very helpful in identifying some of the weeds which were new to us. I also want to thank all the weed watchers who have done such a wonderful job – Linda Daigle, Bill Townsend, Beth Samuels, Steve Olson, Linda Anderson, Mary Ann Perry, Catherine and Brad Greely, and Barbara Green. I can use more volunteers: more people reduces the area that each watcher has to check.

Respectfully submitted, Debby Nance



### BOAT PARADE



The 2011 Laurel Lake Boat Parade was held with **flair** on a **fantastic** day in July, **focusing** on the letter **F**. The boat participation was **fair**, but the six **floating** crafts with their **flashy** decorations put on a **fine** show for the **folks** of Laurel Lake.



The parade was led with a **flourish** by "Let **Freedom** Ring", a **fairly** large group of **flamboyant** bell ringers. **Following** them were the LL **firefighters**, a **fun** fishing craft, **flying**, **flapping** **flags**, and a **festive** family **flotilla**. Also a **fabulous** boat from camp **Fleur** de Lis was **filled** with **friends**, **fun**, **fond** memories and **fantastic** campers. All the boats circled the lake with great **fan fare**, receiving much applause on their **final** lap.



The parade is lots of fun, and we'd love to see more participation. Any type of boat is eligible, so come on out and join us this summer, when the featured letter will be **G**. (Games, guitars, groundhogs, gold fish, etc.) And, we added a 'naked' class to the parade: boats don't have to be decorated. Just join the parade and help provide a show for the folks on the shore.



Jeannette Gardner







**2010 - 2011 OFFICERS**

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Charley Brackett	2011	Kathy Olson	2012
Anne Korjeff	2011	Jeffrey Prunier	2012
Phyllis Lurvey	2011	Jack Dumont	2013
Jackie Woodruff	2011	Lexy Heatley	2013
James Baldwin	2012	John LeClaire	2013
Barbara Green	2012	Terry Silverman	2013
		George Graf	Honorary

**COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Steve Olson	Editor Laurel Lake Ledger
Barbara Green	Water Testing Committee
Debby Nance	Weed Survey
Barbara Dumont	Nominating
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charley Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Rob Prunier	Dresser-Friedman Sunfish Regatta
Jackie Woodruff	LLA Logo Products - T & Sweatshirts & Hats
Perry Nadeau	Membership/Boat Rules
Terry Silverman	4th of July Celebration
Winthrop Brown II	Swim Club Representative

**Visit our Web Site at: [www.LaurelLakeAssn.com](http://www.LaurelLakeAssn.com)**



## LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION TREASURER'S REPORT

Year Ending October 31, 2010

	<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Difference</u>
T-shirts etc.	\$1163.50	1614.00	450.50+
Membership	157.95	2140.00	1982.05+
Flares	0.00	625.00	625.00+
Canoe Race	1199.18	1269.00	69.82+
Green Products	64.45	25.30	- 39.15
Donations	300.00	<u>182.00</u>	<u>- 118.00</u>
Water testing	723.50		
Annual Meeting	203.00		
Concert	220.00		
Sailboat race	53.13		
Ledger	344.55		
Education	50.36		
<u>Dues</u>	<u>350.00</u>		
		+ <u>4.98</u> interest	
Totals	\$4829.62	\$5860.28	\$1030.66+
Checking Account Beginning Balance:		\$ 5,594.34	
Certificates of Deposit Values:		\$19,214.79	
Total Assets:		\$24,809.13	

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Jeannette Gardner, Treasurer**

## Fitzwilliam 250th Anniversary

Fitzwilliam will be celebrating its 250th Anniversary in 2012. The town has set up a committee to plan events to commemorate this big birthday and Jeannette Gardner is representing the Laurel Lake Association. We're not sure what activities will be planned but I expect at least a parade. I remember watching the 225th anniversary parade down Rte. 119 from Rhododendron Road—fire trucks, floats, candy being thrown to the crowd. It was a lot of fun. Fitzwilliam is a lovely town and it will be terrific for the Association and all of us to share in this big event. Events will be in next year's Ledger.

**Kathy Olson**



## 2010 CANOE & KAYAK RACE RESULTS

The 20th annual canoe and kayak race was a great success, with a record number of participants - 88 and 50 boats. The weather – of course - was great. Charley Brackett, being a champion paddler, attracted more than double the number of 5 mile racers than last year, with 26 people participating. The kids race drew 13 children, all from Camp Fleur de Lis or association members. The 2.5 mile race had 29 participants, up 7 over last year. To note the 20th anniversary, Charley added a new class: 1.5 mile Junior/Senior race. This class attracted 10 people in 5 canoes.

The ever popular canoe ‘Tug “O” War’ drew the attention of the Keene Sentinel Newspaper which featured a large photo and article on the front page of the sports section on the Sunday after the race. The Tug of War winners were Dan Arcaro and Tomas Boiton, who beat out Corey White and Nick Deyo.

### 2009 Race Winners:

#### 5 Mile Race

OC-1 Racing—Tom Ellsworth

Recreation—David Arcaro & Daniel Arcaro

Men’s Canoe—Matt King & Keith Mildren

Women’s Canoe—Christina Wilson & Carina Peritore

Mixed Canoe—Tom Warner & Kristin Warner

Men’s Kayak—Ed Dvorchak

Women’s Kayak—Valerie Fisk

Tandem Kayak—Anne Rose & Jonathan Rose

#### 2.5 Mile Race

Women’s Canoe—Emma Connelly & Jessica & Lucy

Men’s Canoe—Evan Woodruff & Zac Gardner

Mixed Canoe—Steve Negron & Brittany Hickson

Jr/Sr Canoe—Dan Corey & A.J. Bowen

Women’s Kayak—Katie Geldard

Men’s Kayak—Conor Olejarz

Tandem Kayak—Chad Hill & Ethan Hill

#### Children’s Race—3/4 mile

Girl’s Canoe—Laura Stucchi & Madison Micou

Boy’s Canoe—Louie Naioleari & Kyle Roy

Girl’s Kayak—Bridget Higgins

#### 1.5 Mile Junior/Senior

Jr./Sr. Recreation—Matt King & Lilly King

Kids Race







(2010 Canoe Race Results... continued)



Youngest Participant Lucy Pierannunzi,  
Emma Connelly and Jessica Pierannunzi

**Tug 'O' War Winner:** Tomas Boiton & Dan Arcaro

Runners Up Corey White & Nicholas Deyo

**Youngest Participant:** Lucy Pierannunzi—1 year old

**Oldest Participant:** Bruce Kurtz— 74.5 years old



**Submitted by Kathy Olson**

Paddling isn't so hard as long as you have plenty of liquids

### PLEASE USE CAUTION DURING BOAT RACES

Please remember to use caution when boating during the canoe/kayak race and sail boat regatta. Your boat wake could endanger a paddler or sailor. These participants—including children—are focused on their racing, not trying to avoid large, unnecessary wakes that could capsize them. Boat spotters are used during the races to rescue people but let's reduce the risk in needing them. If you see a boater creating a large wake during a race, ask them to slow down. These races are only a few hours out of the whole summer. Let's keep them safe.



**ELLIOT INSTITUTE  
CONCERTS ON THE FITZWILLIAM COMMON  
SUMMER 2011**

Thursday, July 21	Tatto (acoustic rock)
Thursday, July 28	American Legion Band (traditional)
Thursday, August 4	Master Storyteller Odds Bodkin (accompanies)
Thursday, August 11	Girl Howdy Band (honkytonk)
Thursday, August 18	Brattleboro American Legion Band (concert & show tunes)

All events are free, begin at 7:00 p.m. and end at 8:30 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. In case of rain, the event will be held on the 2nd floor of Fitzwilliam Town Hall. The music is great, the setting is lovely and you'll see many of your neighbors and maybe a llama. For further information, contact Susan Massin at the Fitzwilliam Town Library.

**SUPPORT OUR LOCAL MERCHANTS!**

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 goes to the Depot General Store for both donations and for selling the flares that are used for our Flares Around the Lake on July 4 and stocking phosphorous free products. We also want to say 'thank you' to Camp Fleur de Lis who generously provide their dining room to us for the Pot Luck events and fall board meeting. Say thanks to these merchants and organization for their support by giving them your business.

Depot General Store	Bullocks Farm Stand (#4 Road)
Dragon Palace	Birds & Things
Bottoms Up Discount Beverage	Ed's Crossroads Pizza & Subs
Summer's BackCountry Sports	Holman Landscaping Materials
Camp Fleur de Lis	Granite Grill & Diner (unfortunately gone)



# 2011 Laurel Lake Association Membership Form

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

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

## Members

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

## Permanent Address

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## Summer Address

☐ Same as above

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

All Applications and checks should be mailed to:

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

Solicitor Laurel Lake Ledger Canoe Race Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your contribution**

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



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Laurel Lake Association  
5 Sunrise Lane  
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

