

Goose Pond Lake Association



Winter Newsletter 2008-2009

GPLA Board of Directors 2008-2009

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Reflecting Rocks

Photo by Malcolm Love

1st Annual GPLA Photo Contest

Congratulations to Malcolm Love!! His reflecting rocks on the front page won the 1st Annual GPLA Photo Contest.

We received a total of 21 photos from seven GPLA entrants. They were all excellent which made it tough to pick a winner. We'll have them all on display at the annual meeting.

Thanks to everyone who participated.

WATER QUALITY

Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA)

In our last two newsletters, we devoted a lot of space to the new CSPA, the basic law that prescribes what can and cannot be done along the shoreland. After a flurry of activity and date changes it did take effect on 1 July 2008. Maintaining the best possible vegetative barrier is still the best protection we can give Goose Pond so it's important that we follow the CSPA as best we can.

The NH DES web site has a ton of good information to help guide you through whatever project you have in mind. Start at:

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wetlands/cspa/index.htm>.

If you need further guidance from NH DES you can contact them at 603-271-2147 or at shoreland@des.nh.gov.

Their latest newsletter, called "The Critical Edge", gives a pretty good rundown on what activities do require a shoreland permit and which ones do not. You can read or download it on the web site. If you do not have Internet access to read the CSPA and associated Fact Sheets, please send your name and snail mail address to Dave Barney, 950 Goose Pond Road, Canaan, NH 03741, and we'll send you a hard copy.

Site Assessment

We thought it looked good for getting this problem resolved during the current legislative session. The current law states "A site assessment is required prior to executing a purchase and sale agreement for any "developed waterfront property" using a septic

disposal system and which is contiguous to or within 200 feet of a great pond (a public water of more than 10 acres) as defined in RSA 4:40-a and upon which stands a structure suitable for either seasonal or year-round human occupancy." This law was strengthened during the last session so that the results must be furnished to NH DES and local authorities when a septic system is found to be failing during a site assessment. Previously, the law only stated that the site assessment report shall be given to the buyer.

The problem here is that Goose Pond is defined by NH DES as an artificial impoundment and not a great pond. Therefore, the site assessment requirement does not presently apply to Goose Pond. This was not corrected during the last session because NH LAKES' judgment was that it would "muddy the waters" and could be easily corrected later. Although we have provided mid-1800 maps to NH DES which clearly show Goose Pond as a "great pond", they still maintain that it is an artificial impoundment. Thus, it still requires legislative action.

The major effort to get the legislative action accomplished was scaled back because of other priorities and personnel reductions. I have asked the NH LAKES president to do what he can to get this done and have briefed our new state representative on the situation. In the meantime, Goose Pond and approximately 280 other artificial impoundments - several over 500 acres, some over 2,000 acres and one over 3,000 acres are left without the protection of the site assessment law. This leaves them open to pollution from faulty septic systems, which are not even checked when the property they are on is sold.

Stay tuned.

Road Salt

At this time last year I reported that "progress continues" on the Goose Pond Low Salt Area. I can't say that this year.

The recommendation of the Road Salt Working Group was submitted to the Board of Selectmen in November 2006. This was intended to replace the previous Canaan no salt policy which had been violated by the Road Agent and then suspended by the SelectBoard pending the RSWG work. The RSWG recommendation called for the use of

abrasives only. Although a draft policy was written by Selectman Jay Waldner in 2007, the policy has never been officially approved by the Selectboard.

After using sand (with a small amount of salt to keep it from freezing) for two winters, the Town purchased a new product called Magic Salt which claimed to reduce the amount of salt required. The Magic Salt was purchased by the Town based on the vendor's assertion that it is environmentally safe. To the best of our knowledge, there was no attempt to verify this with any government agency. Although we had worked very hard with representatives of the Town of Canaan, NH DES, and NH DOT to develop a winter maintenance policy that would protect Goose Pond while keeping the road safe, the Magic Salt was discussed and approved at a Selectmen's meeting without any prior notification to or consultation with us.

In spite of our objections, Magic Salt is being used on Goose Pond Road mixed with salt. Although it is less salt, it is still salt instead of abrasives and now includes an "agricultural by-product of the distilling process" (Magic Salt quote) which contains phosphorus. We have provided a sample to DES for testing and they have verified the phosphorus content.

This phosphorus presents an additional problem. We have demonstrated that the use of salt on the road has caused tree damage and raised the conductivity/chlorine of the water. We have also demonstrated that the use of sand has reduced both of these problems. We have since learned that salt will increase the phosphorus level in the water more than sand. It now appears that Magic Salt will further increase the phosphorus level.

Although our current water testing results show low to moderate phosphorus levels except temporarily during severe weather, we already have algal blooms and cyanobacteria. This is a common problem in many lakes and ponds and is very sensitive to phosphorus levels. This is the reason we emphasize a number of areas that will help keep our phosphorus levels down. They include protecting our vegetative barrier, monitoring septic systems through testing and offering discount services to empty them and trying to minimize the amount of salt or other products which would increase the phosphorus level.

We believe we had a slight reduction in algal blooms last summer although we did have one episode of cyanobacteria again. Now that we have confirmed the presence of phosphorus in Magic Salt, we plan further discussions with NH DES, the SelectBoard, and the Road Agent to resolve this problem and prevent an increase in the phosphorus level..

Thunder Bridge

We had expected that the plan we developed with Hanover and NH DES in 2007 to correct the siltation problem at Thunder Bridge would be completed last summer. However, the severe weather during the summer created some additional priority repair requirements in Hanover so it didn't get done. We hope they will be able to do it this summer.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Lake Host Program - Helen Skeist

We had a very successful Lake Host program in 2008. A combination of paid and volunteer Lake Hosts worked weekends and many weekdays from May 21 through Labor Day, with some additional coverage through October 13. New Hampshire Lakes Association commended us for our Lake Host program. Our Lake Hosts inspected 658 boats. Funding came from several sources, including Goose Pond Lake Association, the grant from NH Lakes Association, Canaan, and Hanover.

Paid Lake Hosts were Margaret Denzer, Aaron Fetto, Andy Morse, and Anne Richwagen who was also a volunteer Lake Host. Other volunteer Lake Hosts were Wayne Casey, Paul DeSantis, Judy Durant, Bill Richwagen, and Melinda Warren. Helen Skeist continued in her role as Point Person.

This year, Helen will be the pre-season Point Person, which includes grant preparation, Lake Host selection and scheduling. Helen is delighted that Donna Foote has graciously agreed to be the in-season Point Person.

Please contact Helen at 603-632-4658 or helen.d.skeist@hitchcock.org if you have questions or suggestions or have a friend or relative who might want to be a Lake Host in 2009. We certainly have openings for volunteer Lake Hosts who are able to commit to total of 10 hours for the season. Perhaps we will have openings for new paid Lake Hosts. Lake Hosts must be at least 16 and must be mature,

dependable, and friendly. Training is provided for all new Lake Hosts.

Everyone knows that our economy is very turbulent. We do not know how much funding will be available for our 2009 program. Many thanks to all of you who pay your dues and special thanks to those of you who donate additional money to GPLA.

BE SURE TO INSPECT YOUR BOAT BEFORE YOU PUT IT INTO ANY WATER AND WHEN YOU REMOVE IT. THANK YOU.

Weed Watchers – Wayne Casey

The Weed Watcher program on Goose Pond was again active during the 2008 season and we are glad to be able to report that no new invasive species were identified. Several suspicious samples were turned in and a few were sent to NHDES for positive identification. Fortunately, all turned out to be native species. Purple loosestrife continues to be an issue with new invasion sites popping up every year. Areas with recent excavation make perfect places for Purple Loosestrife seed to take hold. Be observant in such places and report or remove any that you may find.

Rick Nothnagel will be taking a break from Weed Watchers. We appreciate his hard work over the past several years. I will do my best to fill his shoes during this time. If you have not participated in the program and would like to do so, please let me know either by phone (603 632-4162) or e-mail (wtc@dartmouth.edu). Weed Watchers is a wonderful opportunity to give back to your lake.

I have asked Amy Smagula, NH DES Exotic Species Program Coordinator, to come to Goose Pond this spring and present a training session. As soon as she gives me a date I will let everyone know. All are welcome to attend the educational session. It is a good way to become involved in this program that is so vital to maintaining the quality of the lake. The more people we have trained to identify invasive plants the better equipped we will be to prevent an infestation from gaining a foothold in Goose Pond.

LOONS – UPDATE

We had a good year for adult loons. We saw four during the loon census and larger numbers at various times. However we struck out again on chicks.

We haven't had a loon chick hatched since 2004 or a chick that survived since 2003 so we took the advice of the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) and, with their help, placed a floating loon nest behind the Big Island. The loons have favored the Big Island instead of the Little Island the last few years even though it is much more susceptible to flooding during heavy rains. We didn't expect the loons to use the floating nest the first year but they surprised us by initially nesting as far away from the floating nest as they could get - on an island in Marshall Brook about 100 yards north of Thunder Bridge. However, they abandoned that nest by the end of May and tried behind the Big Island again. They later abandoned that nest due to the high water.

We'll try the floating nest again this summer and hope for the best.

OTHER

Ambient Light

The New York Times of August 31, 2008 began its article "Bright Ideas" with the story of a power outage caused by an earthquake in Los Angeles in 1994. Numerous calls came into emergency centers about the "giant silvery cloud" over the city. It was the Milky Way!!!!

It's been 130 years since outdoor lighting first cast its glow. Now that there is a movement to recapture the night, manufacturers are producing "full cutoff" light fixtures for service stations, sports arenas, parking lots, etc. Thirty states have some regulations to regain the beauty of the night. There is talk of federal regulations.

In addition to the \$10 billion in energy costs that is wasted with badly designed outdoor lighting, evidence is mounting that 24 hours a day of artificial light is affecting the breeding cycle of birds, sea turtles, bats, insects etc. There is a study which suggests a direct correlation between higher rates of breast cancer in women and the nighttime brightness of their neighborhoods.

The cover article of the November 2008 National Geographic Magazine is "The End of Night - Why We Need Darkness". This is an extremely interesting article - both for the facts and the beautiful pictures.

We are lucky on Goose Pond that we can still see the stars at night. Let's all work to make sure we don't lose the beauty.

You can read or download the entire article at <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2008/11/light-pollution/klinkenborg-text>. If you do not have Internet access to read the article, please send your name and snail mail address to Dave Barney, 950 Goose Pond Road, Canaan, NH 03741, and we'll send you a hard copy.

Big Island Ownership

As reported in our latest newsletter, Garnwood, LLC (Kreh) filed a petition for title to the Big Island in

2007. The State filed a motion for Summary Judgment. The Grafton Superior Court granted the State motion for Summary Judgment on 14 February 2008 (No. 07-E-112). Garnwood, LLC appealed that decision to the State Supreme Court. The Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the Grafton Superior Court on October 1, 2008. This leaves the Big Island as property of the State.

E-Mail List

Our e-mail list is currently over 165. Please contact dave.barney@valley.net if you want to be added to the list. Please let Dave know if your e-mail address is changed. We don't have time to chase you down.

MINUTES

GOOSE POND LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday July 20, 2008

Location: Canaan Meeting House
Attendance: approximately 65 individuals, not all members
The 2008 Annual Meeting was called to order by Dave Barney (President) at 10:00 a.m.
Minutes of the 2007 Annual Meeting were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Fiscal Year was changed from last year. Wayne Casey reviewed the financial summary for the last half of 2007. Dave Barney reviewed the financial summary for 2008 through July 11.

July 1 – December 31, 2007	
Cash on hand	\$5,395.92
Total Revenue	\$5,305.00
Total Expenses	\$5,870.23
Projected cash shortfall	\$4,084.00
Actual cash shortfall	\$565.23
CD Current balance	\$3,965.59
Net Assets 12/31/07-	\$9,361.51
January 1 – July 11, 2008	
Cash on hand	\$5,911.60
Revenue	\$4,560.00
Expenses	\$3,544.32
Cash on hand	\$5,911.60
Total Assets	\$10,460.99

The state recommends that lake associations keep \$3,000 to \$8,000 on hand in case of an invasive plant infestation. We currently have \$2,090.21 allocated to our Milfoil Fund.

Dues and donations are up thus far.

Hanover has given \$750 and Canaan gave \$500 for the Lake Host program. Canaan provided \$300 for the portable toilet.

Road sweeping cost \$800 as there was much more sand left this spring, and it was clear that the town was not going to find the money to sweep. Thanks to the many people who have given generously to cover this extra expense.

The turbidity meter grant was funded. The meter was purchased but is not working well.

Canaan's budget has eliminated almost all social service funding (\$20,000+). The board recommends that the Association not accept the \$500 from Canaan and request that it be directed to one of the social services that has been cut. Dave will write the selectmen to tell them we decline the \$500.

Last year, the Lake Host program was able to go until the draw down. This year, we can go only as long as the money lasts and people volunteer.

WATER QUALITY

Less salinity due to less road salt. Less tree damage. The past winter has been an especially snowy and icy winter. With less salt, there has been more sand. It is important to remove the sand to keep it from entering the pond in the spring. There are still potential icy areas around the lake on the road. Town officials have been invited to see those areas.

ALGAE BLOOMS

There have been cyanobacteria near Steve Kibby's house and from the boat launch to Wayne Casey's house. Some has been seen by Weed Watchers. There is no silver bullet to get rid of these plants. It is caused by warming climate and phosphorus. Phosphorus is checked 5 times per year at 2, 5, and 8 meters in depth. Streams and brooks are checked.

In May, two places had high readings – Marshall Brook and Big Island Cove Brook. Last Tuesday's testing – all areas tested were OK. We are not sure whether road salt affects algae. Septic systems are not an obvious cause. Goose Pond has the second deepest drawdown in the state (7 1/2 feet). Wood in the water MAY capture phosphorus. The debris left from fireworks is also a threat to the pond.

LAWS REGARDING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Law requires that when a home is sold, the septic system must be inspected and the result given to the buyer. This information must be reported to the town and the state. This law applies ONLY to great ponds (over 10 acres). Goose Pond is considered an artificial impoundment and therefore does not fall under this legislation. If we could show that Goose Pond was a "great pond" before the dam was installed, we may qualify for this law. There are maps which seem to show Goose Pond as a more than 10 acre pond in 1850. Or we could lobby the legislature to include artificial impoundments.

MERCURY

Dave wants any size fish – bass, pickerel, and perch. It is unsafe to eat any big fish – that is, greater than 12 inches.

LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Helen Skeist is the "point person" This is the 7th year of the Lake Host program.

There are both paid and volunteer lake hosts. The boat launch is staffed Friday from 3 to 7 pm, Saturday from 7 am to 7 pm, Sunday from 7 am to 5 pm. Two volunteers work on weekday mornings. There was good coverage on the 4th of July.

The main purpose is to greet boaters and educate them about invasive plants. Lake hosts are educators, not enforcers. Funding is OK through Labor Day. It would be good to have volunteers between Labor Day and Columbus Day. Helen would be glad to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking over her job as point person.

Lake hosts were recognized and applauded. Dave thanked Helen for all her good work.

WEED WATCHERS

Dave thanked the volunteers who check weeds on a regular basis.

SCUBA DIVERS

Mascoma Lake uses scuba divers to remove invasive weeds once they have been identified. Dave is looking for divers who might do the same for Goose Pond. There is training for divers the end of August - \$129. Must be certified PADI or NAUI or equivalent.

LOONS

There have been no chicks for 3 years. A floating nest was placed near the Big Island. First the loons nested on Marshall Brook. They abandoned that nest. They nested near the Big Island and abandoned that nest. Finally they are nesting again in the Big Island.

Bill Elder requested that we NOT publicize where the loons are nesting. We don't want to encourage folks to go looking for the nest and bothering the loons. He also suggested that warning signs be put on both sides of the water between the Big Island and the shore.

Loon census - Gil and Sharon Miranda, Jan Seville, Wayne Casey and Dave Barney conducted the census. Four loons were identified.

Canada geese are not a threat to loons. The loons will chase them away.

THE ACRE

Wayne removed the orange fence and replaced it with less conspicuous rope. The plantings are doing very well.

AMBIENT LIGHT

A new item which was brought to the membership's attention last year by Malcolm Love. Joann Onacki is now doing work on this. There was an article in the Winter Newsletter. One easy change is to replace flood lights with motion sensors. Catalogs from NH Saves were available and handouts with the web sites for manufacturers of Dark Skies lighting. A sample was displayed.

PARTY AT THE ACRE

Two years ago GPLA had a party with dedication for the Richwagen's son. If interested, the board would arrange for a party in August. A majority was interested with the suggestion that it be "simple and cheap". Pot luck.

Purple loosestrife is back in several places. If seen, please pull up by the roots and bag in its entirety. Take to transfer station and tell attendant to burn on brush pile. Do not put in dumpster.

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S ELECTION

May replace, but cannot add after vote.

Dave Barney

Jim Barry

Wayne Casey

Joann Onacki

Wallace Regan

Jan Seville

GUEST SPEAKER

Arlene Allen is a Shoreland Protection Outreach Coordinator, DES Wetlands Bureau. Arlene discussed the revised Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) effective July 1, 2008. A number of handouts were distributed. Members of the board are happy to supply printed materials to those who were not at the meeting.

0 – 50 feet from Reference Line (elevation at the spillway crest, or, if there are flowage rights, the elevation of the flowage rights)

Waterfront Buffer

All new primary structures must be set back 50' from the reference line.

A 50' waterfront buffer must be maintained. Tree coverage is figured using a 50' x 50' grid and points system.

Natural ground cover shall not be removed.

Stumps, roots and rocks must remain intact.

Pesticide use by a licensed applicator only.

There are fertilizer restrictions.

0 – 150 feet from Reference Line

Natural Woodland Buffer (NWB)

For lots with over 1/2 acres of land within the NWB, 50% of the area between 50' – 150' that is not covered by impervious surfaces shall remain in an unaltered state. For lots with less than 1/2 acre of land, 5% of the area shall remain in an unaltered state.

0 – 25- feet from Reference Line

The Protected Shoreland

Permits are required for many construction, excavation and filling activities.

The general allowance for impervious surfaces is 20% - and up to 30% with runoff protections.

For new lots, there are density restrictions.

There are fertilizer restrictions.

For new septic systems, there are setback requirements.

THIS IS A VERY CONDENSED SUMMARY OF THE CSPA. BEFORE UNDERTAKING ANY ACTIVITY, CONSULT THE ENTIRE ACT OR A STAFF PERSON AT DES

MEMBERSHIP

The following is a list of our current paid members for the 2008-2009 year. If you believe we have incorrectly omitted you from the list, please let us know. If are not a member, we hope you will consider joining us in the fight to keep Goose Pond a beautiful, healthy lake for all to enjoy.

GPLA PAID MEMBERSHIPS 2008/9

Barker, Robert and Heilwig	Barney, Dave and Carolyn	Barry, Jim and Mary
Belanger, Allan and Paula	Bird, Carolyn and Harry	Campbell, Elaine
Casey, Wayne, Donna, and Eileen	Cecchini, Mark and Ross, Mary	Chabot, Bill
DeGennaro, Louis and Shirley	Demers, Robert and Foote, Donna	Dempsey, John and Mary
Dolliver, Nancy and Joseph	Durant, Judith & Ladd, Steven	Egerdahl, Wendy and Jeff
Eikenberry, Eric and Kathy	Elder, William and Phyllis	Estes, Rusty and Noreen
Foster, Kate and Riff, Josh	Garipay, Charles and Joan	Georgia, Margaret
Goldfield, Morris and Frances	Goodman, Carol	Hargraves, Robert
Hawthorne, Robert and Silas, Anne	Higgins, Mike and Sarah Knapp	Hudgens, Tom and Marjorie
Hutchins, Betsy and Rick	Hutchins, Christopher & Doreen	Kibby, Steven and Barbara
Landers, Rodger and Caroline	Love, Malcolm and MacDonald, Christine	Marini, Al and Leona
Lundgren, Philip and Barbara	Manuel, Ralph and Sally	Miranda, Gil and Sharon
Mehler, Robert and Rosemary	Mintz, Samuel	Muise Family
Morley, Ken	Morse, Patricia	Nothnagel, Rick and Teddy
Mulinski, Mitch and Wanda	Murphy, Karen	Parrish, Bruce & Valliere, Jane
Onacki, Joann and Zigmon	Palac, Robert and Diane	Reeve, Judy and Baker, Ken
Pelletier, Leon and Claire	Ragan, Wallace and Suzette	Richwagen, Bill and Anne
Rennie, Robin	Reynolds, John and Barbara	Rosenthal, Angela and Randolph, Adrian
Riese, Allison & Michael	Roby, David and Barbara	Saunders, Dick and Pauline
Ross, Raymond and Donna	Sailer, Eric and Joanne	Simpson, Ted and MaryJane
Seville, Jan	Shadowens, G.W. and Claudine	Soderberg, Roger
Singer, Joanne	Skeist, Helen and Hively, William	Teno, Lucille
Sokol, Robert and Hilda	St. Onge, Cheryl and David	Vinikoor, Davis and Ilene
Tierney, Phil and Sandra	Venti, Steve and Nancy	Ward, Steve and Victoria
Vinikoor, Helen	Wade, Donlon	

July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 GPLA Membership Form

Annual membership dues for the 2008-2009 are \$15.00 per adult. Members are entitled to vote at the 2008 Annual Meeting. Membership dues and contributions are used to finance Goose Pond water quality monitoring, publication of this and any mid-year newsletters, and other Association activities that benefit the pond.

Please make your check payable to the Goose Pond Lake Association and mail it to: Goose Pond Lake Association, P.O. Box 647, Enfield, NH 03748. Thank You.

Name(s):

Permanent Mailing Address:

Goose Pond Mailing Address:

E-Mail Address:

Permanent Telephone: _____ Goose Pond Telephone: _____

Dues: _____ Additional Donation: _____ Total Enclosed _____

2009 ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

The 2009 annual meeting will be held on Sunday morning, July 19, 2008 at the Old Canaan Meeting House, at the intersection of Canaan Street and Roberts Road, directly across from the public dock on Canaan Street Lake. Registration will start at 9:30 am and the meeting will be called to order at 10:00 am. The agenda will be included in our summer newsletter.

Goose Pond Lake Association
P.O. Box 647
Enfield, NH 03748