

Goose Pond Lake Association



Winter Newsletter 2009-2010

INTRODUCTION

We've decided to change the newsletter format slightly. We're putting a brief table of contents on this page to make it easier for you to find the information you want. We've moved the list of officers and directors to later in the newsletter to make room.

This page will continue to have the winning photograph of our 2nd Annual GPLA Photo Contest. This year's winner is Monika Otter's great view of the Narrows on a foggy winter day. The runner up will be on the cover of our summer newsletter and all 19 photos from the eight contestants will be displayed at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting minutes are not included because they are long and would increase the cost of mailing. They will be e-mailed along with the newsletter to those on the e-mail list. Others may request a copy from Dave Barney, 950 Goose Pond Road, Canaan, NH 03741 and they will be snail mailed to them. Copies will also be available at the 2010 annual meeting.

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Winter in the Narrows
Photo by Monika Otter

WATER QUALITY

Algal Blooms and Cyanobacteria

We have seen non-toxic algal blooms increasing over the last few years and minor toxic cyanobacteria blooms late in the last two summers. These were mostly limited to the boat launch and swimming area at the Acre. However, this year we got hit hard with three cyanobacteria blooms lasting longer and covering much larger areas of the pond.

This year we had our first significant cyanobacteria bloom, and our first ever official DES Beach Advisory and lake warning on 5 June, much earlier than in previous years. The main bloom was at the Acre. Smaller blooms were sighted on the southwest and northeast shores of the pond. The warning was finally lifted on 22 June.

A second larger bloom was discovered at the Acre on 30 August. It was later identified at a number of locations on the pond extending from Thunder Bridge at the northern end of the pond to approximately one mile south of the Acre – approximately one half of the area of the pond. Most locations were on the eastern shore adjacent to Goose Pond Road. The DES warning was not lifted until more than two weeks later on 15 September.

The third bloom was discovered on 29 Oct at the boat launch and swimming area and expanded to a 2-3 ft strip for over a mile from Thunder Bridge south to the shore opposite the Little Island. It was determined to be clear on 5 November.

Analysis of samples during the season showed that two of the four common cyanobacteria species are present in Goose Pond.

Microcystis is a hepatotoxin which can cause nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, general malaise, severe thirst, skin and mucous membrane irritation. Anabaena is a neurotoxin and hepatotoxin which can cause these symptoms plus staggering and paralysis. Both are capable of making β -methylamino-L-alanine (BMAA) which may cause ALS.

DES warnings for the first two blooms were posted based on DES analysis of samples taken from the bloom, some by DES and some by GPLA. Since DES does not officially post beaches late in the season, warnings for the third bloom were posted

based on GPLA field analysis – later confirmed by DES.

DES testing has been done at shore locations and by microscopic analysis of samples at DES. Wayne Casey of GPLA has developed a field technique to do microscopic analysis in a boat to give us a preliminary assessment and allow us to post warnings earlier. DES does not have adequate personnel or boats to do this type of testing. We expect it will probably be required next year and have offered to assist DES with boats and personnel at Goose Pond.

Another area where we hope to improve is in notifying Goose Pond personnel that a bloom is present. We have posted signs at the Acre (the boat launch and swimming area) and, at some times, at the swimming area at the dam and on Goose Pond Road at the northern and southern ends of the pond. We have also posted warnings on the Town of Canaan web site at <http://www.townofcanaan.nh.us/>. We'll try to post them on the Hanover web site at <http://www.hanovernh.org/> next summer. During the summer, when DES is actively monitoring blooms, they are all posted on their web site at <http://www2.des.state.nh.us/Advisories/Beaches/>.

We feel that the quickest way to reach the most people is through our e-mail list. We encourage you to add your address to our list so that you'll know quickly when a bloom occurs.

ALS Study

A team of doctors at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, headed by Dr. Elijah Stommel, are studying the prevalence of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) near lakes and ponds. Although no definite link has been established with individuals, preliminary data reported by the Boston Globe suggest that ALS, also called Lou Gehrig's disease, is about 2.5 times more prevalent among people who live within a half mile of water bodies with past or current cyanobacteria colonies.

The incidence was highest around Mascoma Lake where nine patients have been diagnosed since 1990. There have also been at least two ALS cases from Goose Pond. We'd like to assist the study by identifying any other ALS cases where the victim either lived or spent time at Goose Pond. If you know of any, please provide the name, circumstances and any available documentation (or

contact info to obtain it) to Dr. Stommel. His contact info is:

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Neurology
One Medical Center Drive, N
Lebanon, NH 03756

603-650-8664

Elijah.W.Stommel@Hitchcock.ORG

On initial submissions to Dr. Stommel, please send a copy of the info to Dave Barney so we have an idea of the magnitude of the problem at Goose Pond.

Paul Alan Cox, executive director of the Institute for Ethnomedicine in Jackson Hole, Wyo., and a small group of researchers around the world are investigating whether BMAA, a toxin produced by cyanobacteria, is a trigger for ALS.

DES and UNH are also involved in the study by doing some of their own research and by sharing data samples with DHMC and Paul Cox. Goose Pond samples have been provided to DES and UNH and have been included in sample collections provided to Paul Cox.

In addition to water samples, air quality has been sampled at Mascoma Lake and will be sampled at Goose Pond. Originally scheduled for this year, it has been postponed until next spring.

We will continue to support this study and hope that the results will make Goose Pond a safer place.

Low Salt Warrant Article

We met with the Town of Canaan Selectboard again in November to try to convince them to adopt the November 2006 recommendation of the Road Salt Working Group to use abrasives only on the section of Goose Pond Road adjacent to Goose Pond. In spite of our review of the harmful effect of road salt on aquatic life and vegetation and our explanation that the phosphorus in the salt would increase nutrient levels which would cause additional cyanobacteria, they again refused to do this.

There was some brief discussion of a possible trial of manufactured sand (used by Hanover) but no definite plan to our knowledge.

In order to ensure that the amount of chloride and phosphorus entering the pond was minimized, we decided to submit a petitioned warrant article to implement the major elements of the RSWG recommendations.

The text is as follows:

“We registered voters in the Town of Canaan present this petitioned article to be included in the 2010 Town of Canaan Warrant:

To see if the Town will vote to designate Goose Pond Road from the Hanover town line to Talbert Hill Road as a low salt (Type 5) road as defined in NH Department of Transportation (DOT) policy. Winter maintenance shall follow the DOT recommendation for Type 5 roads to use abrasives only. The use of sand mixed with a minimum amount to salt to keep it from freezing would satisfy this requirement.

The Town shall provide appropriate signage during the winter maintenance period to notify the public of this policy.

At the end of the winter maintenance period, the Town shall sweep up the sand on Goose Pond Road. Excess sand shall also be cleaned from culverts by the Town as necessary to keep the sand from entering Goose Pond.

This will help to minimize the harmful effects to Goose Pond of the chloride and phosphorus contained in road salt.”

We are currently in the process of collecting the required 25 signatures of registered Canaan voters and plan to submit them in early January 2010.

All warrant articles will be reviewed by the Selectboard at their meeting at 7 pm, Tuesday, 12 January at the Canaan Fire Station. They cannot deny or change the article but will make a recommendation to approve it or not which will appear on the Town Warrant.

The entire Town Warrant with all articles will be considered by voters at the Deliberative Session at 9

am, Saturday, 30 January at the Canaan Elementary School. The voters may amend any or all articles as long as their “purpose” is not changed. “Purpose” may be liberally interpreted.

The Deliberative Session is an open, transparent meeting and anyone may attend. However, it's up to the assembly that day as to whether or not non-voters can speak. If no one objects, then it's fine. If someone objects, then the Moderator will take a vote to decide if non-voters can speak.

Other Phosphorus Sources

There are other areas that may be contributing to raising the nutrient level in the pond. Two of them are discussed below. They are totally our responsibility and it is up to us to deal with them properly.

Fertilizer

A key source of phosphorus is the use of fertilizer on lawns or other open areas. According to the CSPA, “No fertilizer, except limestone, shall be applied to vegetation or soils located within 25 feet of the reference line of any public water. Low phosphate, slow release nitrogen fertilizer or limestone, may be used on areas beyond 25 feet from the reference line.”

“Owners of lots and holders of easements on lots that were legally developed prior to July 1, 2008 may maintain but not enlarge cleared areas, including but not limited to existing lawns, beaches, and rights-of-way for public utilities, public transportation, and public access, and may repair existing utility structures within the waterfront buffer. Conversion to or planting of cleared areas with native species of ground cover, shrubs, saplings, and trees is encouraged”.

GPLA strongly discourages the use of any fertilizer and encourages the use of native species of ground cover, shrubs, saplings and trees. They provide much better filtration of runoff than lawns and do not require fertilizer or mowing to maintain their appearance. To encourage this, we donated free plants to attendees at our last annual meeting. Maintaining the best possible vegetative barrier is still the best protection we can give Goose Pond.

Septic Systems

Another area of concern is septic systems. In past newsletters we have encouraged frequent pumping

and have offered a discount program by a local pumping service to reduce its cost. We have also tried to identify likely problem systems by shoreline conductivity testing. This involves 130 sites along the shoreline once or twice a year to identify spikes that might indicate faulty septic systems or other potential problems. We have not identified any potential faulty septic systems by conductivity testing.

However, in view of the current cyanobacteria threat we need to take a closer look at septic systems. In our last newsletter, we wrote about the site assessment law which requires that, when a property is sold, a site assessment study be conducted by a permitted system designer to determine if the site meets the current standards for septic disposal systems. Goose Pond had been excluded from this requirement but due to research by Don Wyman, a local realtor and septic system designer, we discovered that the law had been changed so that Goose Pond and all artificial impoundments were now included.

We have a number of old septic systems at Goose Pond which may be discharging phosphorus or other nutrients into the pond, although not in large enough amounts to be identified by conductivity testing. Based on the site assessment law, deficiencies in these systems would not be identified until the property was sold. However, property owners not selling could take advantage of this same service to identify and correct deficiencies in these systems.

We encourage Goose Pond property owners, especially those with older systems, to have their septic system checked by an approved septic designer. A list of designers is available on the DES web site at http://www2.des.state.nh.us/OneStop/Subsurface_Designers_Query.aspx. For those without on line access, contact Dave Barney for a list of designers in our local area.

Thunder Bridge

The Thunder Bridge project was completed early last fall. We appreciate the work done by Director Pete Kulbacki and the Hanover Public Works Department and hope it will correct the siltation problem. We are hoping to add some plantings to the new grassy areas to improve their appearance and improve their filtration ability.

INVASIVE PLANTS

Lake Host Program – Donna Foote

Despite the rainy weekends and the cyanobacteria blooms during boating season, the Lake Hosts had a busy season conducting 842 courtesy inspections of boats and trailers (about 200 more than the 2008 season!) Paid hosts Margaret Denzer, Aaron Fetto, Andy Morse and Melinda Warren worked 451 hours and volunteer hosts Wayne Casey, Paul DeSantis, Sharon Miranda, and Anne Richwagen worked over 126 hours at the ramp. Thanks go out to our paid hosts and all the volunteers, including Helen Skeist and Dave Barney for the success of our program.

We provided ramp coverage from mid-May through Columbus Day – and of special significance is the fact that one plant removed during an inspection was considered an exotic milfoil. This is our second “save” and makes the entire program extremely worthwhile!! The educational efforts that have been conducted throughout the state via the NH Lakes program are proving effective – we found that 75% of boaters have a high level of awareness of the exotic plant problem in our lakes. We need to continue to be vigilant and remind our boaters to clean their boats and trailers to protect Goose Pond, which has escaped an invasive plant infestation so far!

We continued to receive funding assistance from both the Hanover and Canaan Conservation Commissions for this season and also received a donation from the Canaan Lions Club. We would like to see some more volunteers at the ramp next summer – if you can participate in this with us and provide at least 10 hours next summer – please call Donna Foote (850-687-9506) or email (Donnaret@AOL.Com). Our volunteers have experienced pleasure in their communications with the boaters, and found the experience very satisfying! (Training will be provided.) See you next summer!

Weed Watchers – Wayne Casey

Another season of weed watching has drawn to a close with yet another year of no aquatic invasives found.

Purple Loosestrife is still a threat. However, this season showed a dramatic decrease in plants. Just three years ago, during a survey made of the lake in

August, five 50-gallon size trash bags full of Loosestrife were removed from the lakeshore. Last year found only three such bags and this year a single bag. This shows that an effort can make a difference and control of an invasive is possible.

After Milfoil was found on a boat at the launch, precautionary additional watches were made in the area of the Acre that included a watch and shoreline inspection after draw-down to be sure the same boat did not get anything in the lake.

There were very few samples sent to DES this season except for reported scums, which were cyanobacteria in most cases. The bacteria levels were the highest on record this season and it is up to all of us to combat this trend. Any phosphorous is too much phosphorus when it comes to cyanobacteria and algal blooms. Lawn and garden fertilizer, lakeside fire pit ash, grass clippings, erosion, choice of detergent and soaps all contribute to the phosphorus and nitrogen levels of the lake. If you hope to continue to swim and recreate in Goose Pond be extremely considerate of what you put in it, which includes what goes down the drain.

A special thanks to all the Weed Watchers for their efforts and time this season and to Amy Smagula for an excellent exotic species refresher course at the Acre this summer. Next season will see a significant loss as Charlie Garipay steps down from many years of dedicated service to the lake. Charlie was the original Weed Watcher on Goose Pond and carefully covered a critical area around the boat launch. It will take two people to replace Charlie next summer as I plan to break his area in half. If you would like to play an active role in the preservation of Goose Pond please contact me at wtc@dartmouth.edu and become a Weed Watcher. Just a few hours a month could make a significant difference in the future of Goose Pond.

LOONS – UPDATE – Wayne Casey

The summer of 09 saw four loons regularly on the lake - an adult mating pair, a daily adult visitor that we think is from Clark Pond, and the immature loon that has been a curiosity on the lake for the past few years and who matured this fall. The official loon count for the census was five adults and one immature, however there were many days when seven or more were seen.

The adult mating pair made a number of unsuccessful attempts again this year to have a chick. Possibly due in part to the Canada geese using the Little Island for nesting, the loons have been searching for a new nest site. One of last year's nests was on the west shore of the Big Island and it failed due to high water more than once. Loons will abandon failed nests and this year found a new site just south of last year's nest. This nest was better and we found the loon still on it after the lake reached a very high level from heavy rains. However, a few days later the nest was once again abandoned and a search of the area found raccoon tracks. It was assumed the egg was stolen, which happened a second time as well.

The floating nest from the Loon Preservation Committee was in position the whole time just a short distance from the raided and flooded nests. Hopefully the floating nest has been in place long enough now that the loons will give it a try next season.

Although the failure of the nest has been high water or predators, it has also been observed that many boaters were approaching the nest. On three occasions, when questioned, the boaters near the nest said they did not see the signs (?). For this reason the GPLA obtained two very large signs from the LPC that were put into place this past season and, with the help and hard work of Eric Sailer, the area behind the Big Island was clearly marked. Although acceptable to most, at least one boater complained to NH Fish & Game. When we explained the situation to them, they agreed with our reasons for posting the area.

If you do find yourself in the vicinity of a loon nest, please stay as far from the nest as possible and be aware of the loon's behavior. If the other loon shows up and places itself between you and the nest, please back away. The nesting loon will also exhibit a head posture if disturbed or frightened. If you see the loon put its head down on the ground stretched out toward the water, it means he/she is about to abandon the nest. Please back away and leave the area quietly if you see this posture. Noises are also an issue when close, no motors, yelling, or banging of paddles, etc. If your children go out to either island, please talk to them about the loons beforehand. I'm sure we would all like to have a

chick on the lake, please give the loons every opportunity to accomplish this.

OTHER

Docks and Leases

During the summer a number of property owners received letters from NH DES directing them to either bring their property into compliance (pay the lease fee and/or obtain a dock permit, etc.) or remove their personal property (including docks) from the premises. Their intention was to physically remove docks etc. from properties that were not brought into compliance.

We sent the following message to NH DES regarding this situation:

"We discussed this matter at our GPLA Board of Directors meeting last week. These have always been unpopular laws. The lease requirement for seasonal docks only applies to six (including Goose Pond) of the approximately 280 artificial impoundments in New Hampshire. Aside from that, there seem to be two other main areas of concern.

One is the lack of published information on seasonal dock and other lease requirements that I mentioned to you in an earlier message.

The second is a feeling that the current crackdown on docks and leases is not being conducted fairly. For example, some dock owners received letters while others, whose dock's size and shape may be comparable, did not. Some of this may be based on a lack of information since most of us do not know who received DES letters or whether the letters addressed docks or leases.

One of our Directors mentioned that you told him that you planned to update the laws. That would probably help. Do you plan to get public input?

Did you identify any other documentation that we could use for now to help people understand the program?

Another thing that might help is to hold a meeting up here to explain the program. It would also provide useful input for you in updating the program."

We have received no response to this message and a follow-up and, to the best of our knowledge, no docks, etc. have been removed.

We discussed this with Jim Gallagher, Chief Engineer, Dam Bureau, NH DES in late December and expect a written response soon. We'll share it with you by e-mail as soon as we receive it.

The Acre

The Town of Canaan has continued to withdraw the services and funding they previously provided at the public swimming area and boat launch at The Acre. They were to share the toilet cost, pickup the trash and plow the parking area. This area is owned by the state but located in Canaan.

Fortunately, NH DES has agreed to pay the entire cost of the portable toilet. We are paying the cost of trash pickup. We have decided not to hire a contractor to plow the parking area so it will probably not be plowed this year.

We have asked the Fire Chief several times to look into the possibility of installing a fire hydrant at the boat launch area to provide additional fire protection for the Goose Pond area. We are awaiting his response to that request.

NH DES has also agreed to deepen the boat launch down to the cement ribs. That should make it easier to launch boats. We hope they will be able to get that done this winter while the water is down.

Book Exchange – Kate Bradigan

Any Goose Ponders interested in an ongoing book exchange, contact Kate Bradigan at 632-1170.

E-Mail List

Our e-mail list is currently over 155.

As mentioned in the cyanobacteria section we strongly encourage you to add your address to our list so that you'll know quickly when a cyanobacteria bloom occurs.

We also encourage use of the e-mail list to reduce our mailing costs. Each snail-mailed newsletter costs us in the neighborhood of \$1.40. Since we snail mail approximately 380 newsletters twice a year, that's a total cost of approximately \$1,064 a year. You can help us reduce that cost by receiving your newsletter by e-mail.

Please contact dave.barney@valley.net if you want to be added to the list. Please also let Dave know if your e-mail address is changed.

Dark Skies

The State of New Hampshire has enacted the following law establishing a Dark Sky Policy effective September 13, 2009.

TITLE I
THE STATE AND ITS GOVERNMENT
CHAPTER 9-E
OUTDOOR LIGHTING EFFICIENCY
Section 9-E:3

9-E:3 New Hampshire Dark Sky Policy. – It shall be the policy of the state of New Hampshire to encourage municipalities to enact such local ordinances and regulations as they deem appropriate to conserve energy consumed by outdoor lighting; to minimize light pollution and glare; and to preserve dark skies as a feature of rural character wherever practicable.

Source. 2009, 212:1, eff. Sept. 13, 2009.

We'll continue to publish information on reducing ambient light and encouraging Goose Pond members to preserve dark skies at Goose Pond.

MEMBERSHIP

The following is a list of our current paid members for the 2009-2010 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 Membership

2009-2010

Allen, Jeffrey & Monica
Barney, Dave and Carolyn
Bird, Carolyn and Harry
Brown, Michele and Family
Casey, Wayne, LaDonna, & Eileen
Chartier, Daniel
Condon, Maureen
DeGennaro, Louis and Shirley
Durant, Judith & Ladd, Steven
Farnham, Mark & Andrea
Friedman, Lawrence
Giordan, Judith
Hargraves, Ann and Robert
Higgins, Mike and Sarah Knapp
Hutchins, Betsy and Rick
Kibby, Steven & Barbara
Love, Malcolm and C. MacDonald
Macy, Elizabeth
McAlpine, Richard and Elaine
Miranda, Gil and Sharon
Mulinski, Mitch and Wanda
Ragan, Wallace and Suzette
Rennie, Robin
Riese, Allison & Michael
Seville, Jan
Slater, Richard & Mildred
Tierney, Phil and Sandra
Vinikoor, David and Ilene
Westran, Ken and Ann

Ahern, David Jr.
Barry, Jim and Mary
Bosworth, William
Burnham, Fred, Janice & Joanne
Cecchini, Mark, Ross and Mary
Chicoine, Albert and Joan
Conner, Phyllis
Demers, Robert & Donna Foote
Egerdahl, Wendy and Jeff
Fellows, Mary
Garipay, Charles & Joan
Grace, John and Sandra
Hawthorne, Robert & Anne Silas
Holland, Michael and Heidi
Hutchins, Christopher & Doreen
Kibby, Rebecca
Lundgren, Philip and Barbara
Manuel, Ralph and Sally
McCormack, Kevin and Audrey
Morley, Ken
Onacki, Joann and Zigmon
Reeve, Judy and Baker, Ken
Reynolds, Barbara
Ross, Raymond and Donna
Simpson, William and Michelle
Sokol, Robert and Hilda
Valliere, Jane & Bruce Parrish
Vinikoor, Helen
Wolk, Karen

Ahern, David and Tina
Belanger, Allan and Paul
Bradigan, Terry & Kate

Chabot, Bill
Cimis, George & Elaine
Cremisi, Jane
Dolliver, Nancy & Joe
Estes, Rusty and Noreen
Floyd, Robert
Georgia, Margaret
Hammond, Deb & Gary
Henry, Fred and Gloria
Hudgens, Tom & Marjorie
Keddie, Edward & Kathleen
Landers, Caroline
MacGregor, Linda
Marini, Al and Leon
Mehler, Robert & Rosemary
Muise, Kevin & Carolyn
Pelletier, Leon and Claire
Reisch, John and Judith
Richwagen, Bill & Anne
Sailer, Eric and Joanne
Skeist, Helen & Hively, W.
St. Onge, Cheryl and David
Venti, Steve and Nancy
Ward, Steve and Victoria

GPLA Board of Directors 2009-2010

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Wayne Casey (VP/Treasurer)
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Jim Barry (Secretary)
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Steve Ward
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Weed Watcher Chairman

Wayne Casey
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wayne.t.casey@dartmouth.edu

Lake Host Point Person

Donna Foote
603-632-7302
Robertret@aol.com

July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 GPLA Membership Form

Annual membership dues for the 2009-2010 year are \$15.00 per adult. 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 _____

2010 ANNUAL MEETING REMINDER

The 2010 annual meeting will be held on Sunday morning, July 18, 2010 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