



A Little Spot of Heaven

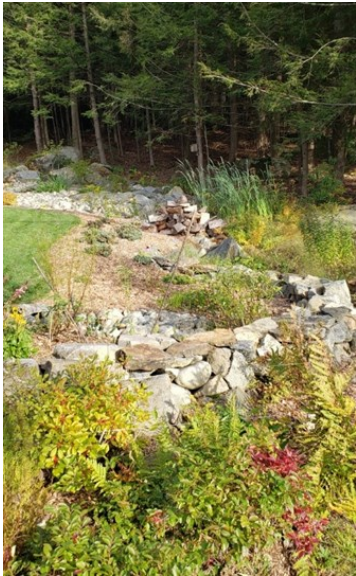
The Laurel Lake Ledger

Laurel Lake Association

36th Annual Newsletter Spring 2023

STORMWATER RUNOFF MITIGATION & YOUR BEAUTIFUL PROPERTY

Controlling stormwater runoff is a topic we – and every other lake water protection group – have written about and talked about for many years. It’s become a bigger topic the past few years as the ferocity of storms has increased due to climate change and the results of our lake water testing continue to show the decline in water transparency and increase in harmful phosphorus levels due to runoff. Lest you think this is yet another lecture on what you should be doing to mitigate runoff look at the beautiful picture here. The property is hilly and subject to natural runoff due to spring snow melt and heavy rains. The yard has been shaped to capture, channel and contain the runoff from the hill and the house. Excess water from the hill moves into a natural looking rock stream filled with native plants. Roof water runoff is captured by gutters which move underground and merge into the same stream. The stream feeds two bog gardens which teem with plant and animal life. The water slowly permeates into the soil and will finally become part of the watershed entering the nearby lake cleaner and cooler. Not shown in the picture is a small patch of grass beyond the stone wall, plants, a section of gravel then the road – East Lake Road at Laurel Lake.



The front yard uses a similar variety of surfaces and plants to break up the flow of rain water or snow melt that could flow unimpeded down the slope, across the street (picking up oils, salts, animal waste and other contaminants) and into the lake. These landscape designs slow the water flow and allow the water to percolate into the ground and let contaminants get filtered out into the soil before leaching into the lake water.



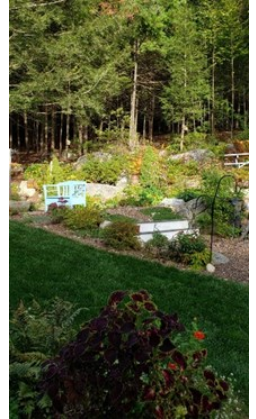
It may look like something from Better Homes & Gardens Magazine (and it could belong there) but these pictures are of the home of Patrick & Luanne Deyo who live on East Lake Road. Luanne’s gardens are always stunning and beautiful to look at when you drive or walk by but what makes the image more impactful is the design that Pat & she put into their property to reduce the effects of the natural waterflow across their property and into Laurel Lake.



Close up of stream & bog pond

Pat & Luanne bought and removed a preexisting home that had fallen into serious disrepair and put up a new home on the original footprint, incorporating many features with the goal of protecting and improving the lakeshore habitat. Because the property is within 250 feet of the lake, the state’s Shoreland Protection regulations applied to their design and permitting was required from the state and town. All lakefront property owners should be familiar with these requirements known as NH Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act – RSA 483-B; available at: www.des.nh.gov/land/waterfront-development. That link brings you to a wealth of information about landscaping (such as tree & shrub management) and modifications to houses, docks, decks, paths, etc.

Lakefront homeowners should have a good understanding of what nature is doing around their property and what their property and actions may be doing to nature. Every property at or near the lake is above it so the lake is the recipient of everything you do on your property. For example, grassy areas around the water's edge can be good to slow down water flow (versus just dirt which compacts & gets rutted, allowing silt to flow to the water) but only lime can be used within 25 feet of the waterline. Slow release nitrogen and low phosphorus fertilizers can be used beyond 25' but most NH soil doesn't need extra phosphorus so test your soil before spending money on super expensive fertilizers that you may not need. It's recommended that homeowners leave a strip of unfertilized grasses & vegetation around the edge of water bodies and drainage areas to slow the flow of water directly into the lake and allow it to filter the water. Planting native plants such as low bush blueberries and ferns near the water's edge is attractive, easy to maintain and again slows, filters and cools water before entering the lake. Pat & Luanne have planted natives such as cat tails, lobelia, turtleheads and marsh marigolds in their wet areas and terraced garden areas in their backyard.

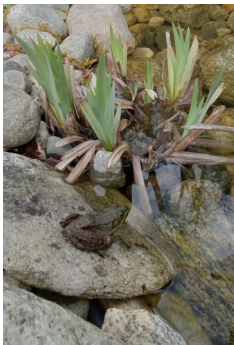


Downspout draining to pond

The Deyos grew up enjoying interacting with nature and Pat has spent most of his life vacationing and now living year-round at the lake. He's an avid fisherman and admirer of newts, frogs, crayfish, snakes, etc. and has learned how the lake water quality impacts our wildlife. Others of us might need more knowledge of the right things to do and, fortunately, wonderful resources are available through a variety of organizations. **NHLakes** (www.nhlakes.org) is a source of best practices with webinars, their newsletter, annual conference and speakers (whom we've had several times at our annual meetings). They also offer the **Lake Smart Assessment Program** where you can do a free online assessment of your property and be provided with designs to protect water quality. They will also do a free in-person evaluation. The State of New Hampshire's **Department of Environmental Services** is the sponsor of the **Soak Up The Rain Program** (www.soakNH.org) which provides runoff mitigation information with fact sheets on building infiltration trenches & steps, dry wells, etc.; publications on landscaping by the water & stormwater management; resources for planning a rain garden. Gail Connelly and Pat Spicer took advantage of this service to address a runoff area which was highlighted in the 2021 Ledger. Another resource is the **NH Cooperative Extension** (<https://extension.unh.edu>) which has lots of information on gardening, plants, trees, insects, pest control methods, stormwater control and numerous other topics.



Marsh Marigolds



Happy pond resident

We love Laurel Lake and want to keep its waters clean and healthy for our use and the wildlife who rely on it. We all can contribute to that goal, regardless of how far away from the water we live by learning about and following good environmental practices. Pat and Luanne started with an almost blank slate and encompassed a number of good practices in their house and yard design but a single improvement on a property (installing a gutter to flow rain water into a dry well or rain garden, planting native shrubs, sloping a walkway to prevent direct runoff into the lake, etc.) can make a difference to the lake's water quality. And the results can be beautiful as evidenced by the Deyo's property.

Kathy Olson and many thanks to Pat & Luanne for sharing their story and technical advice. Any errors are mine.

(Photos from Luanne & Pat & Kathy Olson)



2023 SUMMER EVENTS—LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION

JUNE

3rd- 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis (members are welcome to attend).

JULY

3rd - **9:00 PM** - Celebrate the Fourth of July with the traditional lighting of flares around Laurel Lake. Flares are available for purchase at Pottery Works (Rt. 119)

15th - 10:30 AM - The **Annual meeting** will be held at White's Field, Laurel Lake Campground, Keene Ave. Our featured speaker is Robert Goodby who will speak on the archeology of the Fitzwilliam area. (See below for more details.) Association business will also be addressed with a picnic lunch following the meeting. Bring a chair (none provided). Note: in case of terrible weather, the meeting will be moved to the restored train depot building in Fitzwilliam Depot, next to the fire station.

22nd - 7-9 PM - Concert on the water by Joe Pagano's (east side of lake south of Spicer's Point). Rob Thackeray will be performing. Boat on over for some great music.

29th- 11:00 AM - The **32nd** Annual Canoe/Kayak Race at White's Field, Keene Ave. Registration starts at 9:30 AM. Kids race at 11:05 a.m., other categories are timed afterwards.

SEPTEMBER

2nd - 10:00 AM - The **35th** Dresser-Friedman Regatta. Rain date is September 3 at 10 a.m.

9th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis (members are welcome to attend).



SUMMER SCHEDULE NOTES:

Our annual meeting speaker is Dr. Robert Goodby, Professor of Anthropology at Franklin Pierce University, who will speak about the Native American history and archeology in the Monadnock area. Dr. Goodby has done extensive research on this topic and has published a wonderful book on the topic: "A Deep Presence—13,000 Years of Native American History". A bit of that history was in last year's Ledger regarding the Abenaki canoes found in Laurel Lake. This should be a great program.

You'll also note that no pot luck suppers are on the calendar. Attendance at them has been less than a dozen people so we feel interest in them has flagged. They were designed to allow people from around the lake to meet each other in a pleasant setting aside from the annual meeting. Should members want to revive this gathering or other activities such as the boat parade or have ideas for something else and are willing to put the manpower into putting it on, please let us know. We're happy to sponsor lake focused activities on behalf of the Association but need your ideas and volunteer labor to pull them off. You can email us at President@laurellakeassn.com or Vicepresident@laurellakeassn.com.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Message from the President" number 4! Spring seems to be returning a bit slow after demonstrating just what March is made of. At the time I write this, we are still waiting for the "official" Ice Out Date. [April 7 was the date.]

This winter we are traveling again throughout the south to visit with family, but each year as this time rolls around, we begin to feel the attraction of the Lake calling us to return.

We set out to have a good old fashioned chicken barbeque this past year. As usual, the Laurel Lake Association Team all pitched in which resulted in the event being a resounding success. Special thanks to Dave Streeter and his cooking team for some awesome tasting chicken. Rumor has it that the original Laurel Lake secret BBQ sauce was utilized-- a taste I remember since childhood. Captain Dave Streeter and his family also assisted in a lake water rescue as my sunfish sailboat tipped over while practicing "showing off" before the regatta. Dave actually jumped in and helped me get the boat upright and underway.

I want to thank all the members who helped us this past year in participating and/or supporting the testing, events, meals, and facilities that make it an enjoyable summer experience. It's rewarding to be a part of the Laurel Lake Association as it continues its goal to maintain the quality of the lake and provide family oriented programs.

The Association will continue to provide a full schedule for this summer's activities as the ever changing conditions permit. As always, we could use your help with Lake Host Volunteers and all the summers activities.

See you soon!

Tom White

LAUREL LAKE LOGO PRODUCTS

When it comes to Laurel Lake Logo Products we have all the bases covered for you. There is a supply of pre-printed shirts, sweatshirts, hats, mugs and much more and these will be available for sale at the annual meeting July 15, at the canoe/kayak race on July 29 or by appointment.

In addition to the limited supply of pre-printed items we have pivoted to an online store through a local screen printing and design shop located on Winchester St. in Keene NH. The company is Bulldog (a quick internet search for them and you will find the amazing things they are doing to help Cheshire County Communities). Their website is <https://bulldog-design.com/>. Along with their website there is also a special online store setup specifically for the Laurel Lake Association so you can purchase Laurel Lake Logo Products. The web address for the online store is <https://laurellake.itemorder.com/> (as of your reading the store is open for business and you can see many items that can be purchased). The store will be open until June 19th & then Bulldog will close the store and put into production all the orders that were made through the 19th with the products being available 3 weeks later (just before the annual meeting). In addition to normal Laurel Lake Logo Products there will also be canoe/kayak shirts. There are many ways to pick-up your gear and they include curbside or shipping to you (extra charges may apply). I will also be willing to pick up for anyone and we could do curbside pick-up at my camp at 14 South Pond Rd. (off of White's Grove Rd. on the east side of the lake). Anyone that needs assistance ordering please contact Bulldog at 603-352-7217. If there are product selections you would like to see please share those thoughts with me and I will see what I can coordinate with Bulldog.

The online ordering was very successful the past few years & we'll have another offering later in the year.

Joe Pelkey Jpelk20@yahoo.com



2022 DRESSER-FRIEDMAN REGATTA HIGHLIGHTS

The 2022 Dresser Freeman Regatta was well attended this year with eight boats in the race. The wind was fairly cooperative so a triangular course was used. This year Commodore Bruce Hill officiated the race. This year’s participants were: Bill Chase, Matt Poulin, Tom White, Mike King again sporting his black pirate sail, Patrick McNamara, Jeff Prunier, and sailing their first Regattas were Joe Pelkey and Erik Fey.



Mike King with his Pirate Sail



The start of the race

The winds held for most of the race, except at the last mark but a good time was had by all. Matt Poulin set a quick pace pulling far ahead on the first leg, but the fickle lake winds allowed Tom White to get the win followed by Matt Poulin, Jeff Prunier, Patrick McNamara, with Joe Pelkey, Erik Fey, Bill Chase and Mike King in a side by side race to the finish line.



If you have a sunfish under your camp, clean it off and enjoy the day with us.

And if you need sailing lessons, call Tom White and he will be happy to give you a quick class. Joe Pelkey took three lessons having never sailed before and came in 5th. The Regatta is open to all sailors and non-sailors alike who live on the lake.

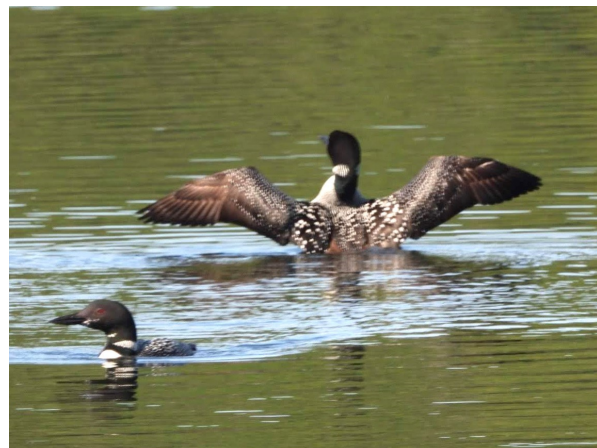
Tom White

LOON UPDATE

We can’t have an issue of The Ledger without a loon update. We continue to be lucky with the loons—2 or 3 or more at a time—visiting & dining on the Laurel Lake fish. Gail Connelly captured some great photos of our lake friends:



Juvenile Loons visiting in the Fall



Adult Loons

CANOE/KAYAK/SUP RACE

The 31st canoe/kayak race was held July 30 on another gorgeous day, with similar participation to last year. There were 36 boats with 47 participants, including 23 children. The youngest participant was Coleman Elliott, 3 years old, who rode in his mother's kayak around the lake. Race MVP was Joe Pelkey. Thanks as always to Charley Brackett and all the volunteers who make this big event happen.

Race Results (Category, Winner & Time):

¾ Mile Children's Race:

- Girl's Kayak: Luciana Freeman, 21:36
- Boy's Kayak: Mason Pelkey, 19:15
- Girl's Canoe: Bae Derby/Matt Della Croce, 20:36
- Girl's SUP: Lacey Fraser, 19:05



Coleman Elliott, youngest participant

2.5 Mile Race:

- Women's Kayak: Emily Elliott & Coleman Elliott, 55:00
- Men's Kayak: Kyle Freeman, 36:00
- Tandem Kayak: Mike King/Bruce Hill, 34:04
- Family Canoe: Lou Saso/Steve Wool, 58:34
- SUP: Colin McGinn, 46:22



Mason, Joe (MVP), Shayna & Lila Pelkey

5 Mile Race:

- Women's Racing Canoe: Priscilla Rienert/Heather Putnam, 1:23:03
- Jr/Sr Racing Canoe: Jackson Erali/Dave Dugas, 1:23:40

7.5 Mile Race:

- Women's Solo Canoe: Christina Wilson, 1:22:54
- Men's Solo: Michael Melnikov, 1:22:01
- Touring Kayak: Dave Wiltey, 1:16:24
- Solo Stock Racing: Bill Farrell, 1:35:37



2022 Canoe/Kayak race medal winners showing off their awards.



Charley Brackett announcing race results

Kathy Olson



AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES (AIS) ANNUAL REPORT—2022

The AIS committee worked on completing monthly surveys of the lake this summer and tried to remove as many invasive yellow Iris on the lake as possible.

We got off to a slow start in June as many members of the committee arrived later than usual, while rain and wind prevented some from completing their surveys before the month's end. Fortunately, the weather was more cooperative in July and August, and with some exceptions we were able to collect more complete data.

The good news is that, other than some yellow iris, no invasive species have been identified in Laurel Lake. The primary varieties of vegetation continue to be: Floating Heart, Pipewort, and Lobelia. There are a few areas that have larger areas of plant growth, such as pickerel weed near the road by Fleur de Lis and the dock by the Swim Club, and water shield, which grows in profusion between the Fleur de Lis dock and the lake's bank. Although not all of the yellow Iris have been removed, we continue to plan on completing its eradication this coming summer. We would welcome anyone who is handy with a shovel to let us know if they have an hour or two to help us complete this task.

This year we lost one of our most loyal and long standing members of the AIS committee, Ken de Blieu. Ken enjoyed training young members of the community by working with them to identify different species in the lake, inspiring them to appreciate the environment. He will be missed.

It is with great appreciation that I thank and recognize the members of the AIS Committee who have faithfully given of their time and energy to safe guard our beautiful Lake. They are: Bill Townsend, Barbara Dumont, Phyllis Lurvey, Tricia LeClaire, Gail Connelly, Pat Spicer, Cat Lathrop, Nancy Fey-Yensan, and Bobby Williams.

Beth Samuels, Chairperson

[Editor's Note: Beth has resigned as Chairperson of this committee after many years of service to the function. She will continue to be an AIS surveyor but we need someone (or a couple of people) to take over the chairperson role. See page 17 for details.]

WATER TESTING REPORT



Last summer we were asked by the VLAP Coordinator to add a fourth sampling date in May in order to learn more about the impact of spring runoff into the lake. We will continue to do the May sampling. Results of the 2022 testing are on the next two pages. The results are also posted on the Laurel Lake Association website, along with instructions about how to read the report.

Thank you to our great 2022 sampling team and volunteers who delivered samples to the laboratory in Concord: Gail Connelly, Kathy Olson, Perry Nadeau, Patrick McNamara, Rachel Shives and Beth Samuels.

Barbara Green

August 2022 Water Testing Team (from left to right): Beth Samuels, Rachel Shives, Gail Connelly, Barbara Green, Kathy Olson

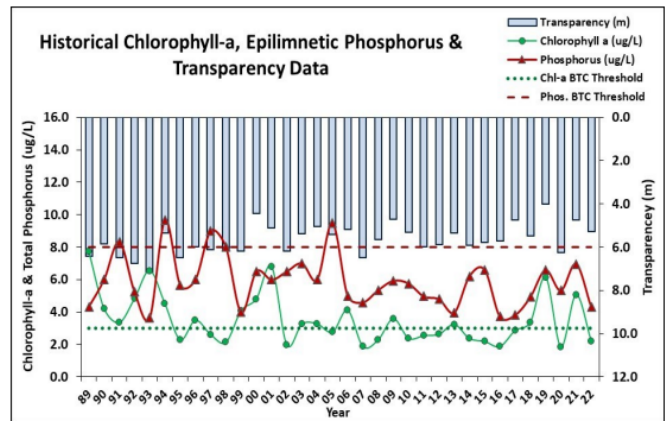
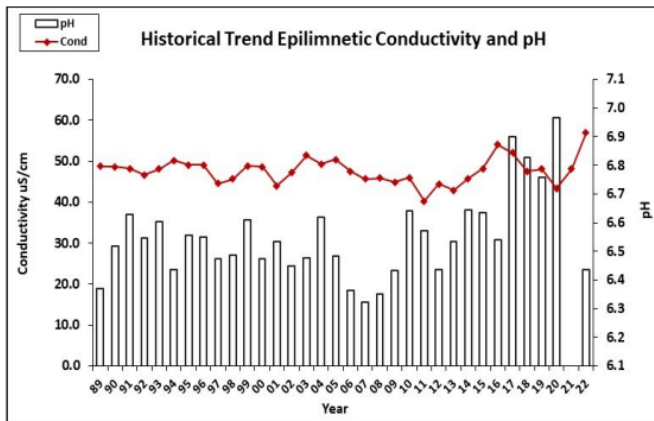


VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL LAKE REPORTS LAUREL LAKE, FITZWILLIAM 2022 DATA SUMMARY

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Great job sampling in 2022! Similar to 2020, drought conditions in 2022 resulted in lower levels of nutrients (phosphorus) and algal growth (chlorophyll) in the lake. The lack of stormwater runoff and flushing of wetland systems rich in dissolved organic matter resulted in less tea colored, or brown, water which combined with lower levels of algal growth helped to improve lake clarity (transparency). This highlights the importance of [managing stormwater runoff](#) within the watershed. Continue working towards development and implementation of a watershed management plan to help protect the lake from future degradation. Encourage lake front properties to be certified [LakeSmart](#) through NH LAKES' lake-friendly living program. Great job adding a sampling event in May to evaluate spring nutrient loading and continue May monitoring in the future. Keep up the great work!

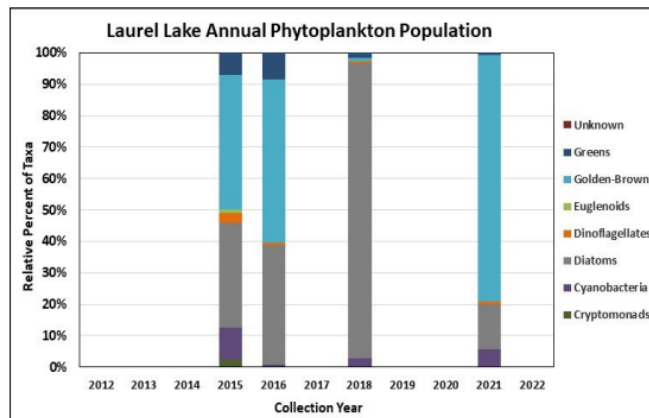
HISTORICAL WATER QUALITY TREND ANALYSIS

Parameter	Trend	Parameter	Trend
Conductivity	Stable	Chlorophyll-a	Improving
pH (epilimnion)	Stable	Transparency	Worsening
		Phosphorus (epilimnion)	Stable



DISSOLVED OXYGEN AND PHYTOPLANKTON

(Note: Information may not be collected annually)





VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL LAKE REPORTS LAUREL LAKE, FITZWILLIAM 2022 DATA SUMMARY

OBSERVATIONS (Refer to Table 1 and Historical Deep Spot Data Graphics)

- **CHLOROPHYLL-A:** Chlorophyll level was very low in May, increased to a moderate level in June, decreased to a low level in early August, and increased slightly in late August. Average chlorophyll level decreased from 2021 and was less than the state median and the threshold for oligotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) chlorophyll levels since monitoring began.
- **CONDUCTIVITY/CHLORIDE:** Epilimnetic (upper water layer), Metalimnetic (middle water layer) and Hypolimnetic (lower water layer) conductivity and/or chloride levels were slightly greater than the state medians yet within a low range for NH lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable epilimnetic conductivity levels since monitoring began.
- **COLOR:** Apparent color measured in the epilimnion indicates the water was lightly tea colored, or light brown, from May through early August, and then became clear with little to no tea, or brown, coloring in late August.
- **E. COLI:** Swim Club E. coli level was low and much less than the state standard for public beaches.
- **TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Epilimnetic phosphorus level was low in May, increased slightly in June, decreased in early August, and remained stable through late August. Average epilimnetic phosphorus level decreased from 2021 and was much less than the state median and the threshold for oligotrophic lakes. Historical trend analysis indicates stable, yet variable, epilimnetic phosphorus levels since monitoring began. Metalimnetic phosphorus level was low in May, increased to a moderate level in June and early August, and then decreased to a low level in late August. Hypolimnetic phosphorus level fluctuated within a moderate range from May through early August and then increased to a slightly elevated level in late August and the turbidity of the sample was also slightly elevated.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** Transparency measured with (VS) and without (NVS) the viewscope was slightly below average (worse) in May, decreased (worsened) in June when algal growth increased, and then increased (improved) to within an average range for the lake in August. Average NVS transparency increased from 2021 and was higher (better) than the state median.
- **TURBIDITY:** Epilimnetic and Metalimnetic turbidity levels fluctuated within a low range. Hypolimnetic turbidity level was slightly elevated in late August potentially indicating the formation and accumulation of organic compounds under anoxic (low dissolved oxygen) conditions.
- **PH:** Epilimnetic pH level was slightly less than the desirable range 6.5-8.0 units and historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable epilimnetic pH levels since monitoring began. Metalimnetic pH level fluctuated around the low end of the desirable range. Hypolimnetic pH level was slightly acidic.

Station Name	Table 1. 2022 Average Water Quality Data for LAUREL LAKE - FITZWILLIAM										
	Alk. (mg/L)	Chlor-a (ug/L)	Chloride (mg/L)	Color (pcu)	Cond. (us/cm)	E. coli (mpn/100mL)	Total P (ug/L)	Trans. (m)		Turb. (ntu)	pH
								NVS	VS		
Epilimnion	4.2	2.20	9	20	56.9		4	5.28	5.77	0.35	6.44
Metalimnion					55.0		8			0.51	6.59
Hypolimnion					56.9		13			1.12	6.02
Swim Club						5					

NH Median Values

Median values generated from historic lake monitoring data.

Alkalinity: 4.5 mg/L **Chlorophyll-a:** 4.39 ug/L
Conductivity: 42.3 uS/cm **Chloride:** 5 mg/L
Total Phosphorus: 11 ug/L **Transparency:** 3.3 m
pH: 6.6

NH Water Quality Standards

Numeric criteria for specific parameters. Water quality violation if thresholds exceeded.

Chloride: > 230 mg/L (chronic) **Turbidity:** > 10 NTU above natural
E. coli: > 88 cts/100 mL (beach)
E. coli: > 406 cts/100 mL (surface waters)
pH: between 6.5-8.0 (unless naturally occurring)



LAKE HOST PROGRAM: Working Together to Protect Against Invasive Species

What is the Lake Host Program?

The Laurel Lake Association partners with NH Lakes to provide a lake hosting and courtesy boat inspection program at the Laurel Lake boat ramp during summer season months. The Lake Host program serves to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), plants, and animals from regional bodies of water. Laurel Lake's water quality is rated among the best in NH, and we're very fortunate to have kept variable milfoil and other invasives like Asian clams from its waters. The Lake Host program, considered a first line of defense in keeping these invasives from our lake, is staffed by volunteers from our lake community as well as a paid inspector that is funded by grants from NH Lakes and the Laurel Lake Association.

How successful was the Summer 2022 Lake Host Program at Laurel Lake?

Very! Program funding supported approximately 15 hours a week of paid Lake Host Inspector coverage between May 14 and September 5. Paid Lake Host hours, in combination with our terrific and essential volunteer hosting, contributed to 305.45 total ramp hours and 671 total inspections for the season. Suspicious weed specimens, removed from boat trailers, were sent to NH Lakes and NH DES for official review. Fortunately, all proved to be native and non-invasive.

These are a few 2022 program highlights:

- NH Lakes grant funding increased by 55% from 2021 grant funding amount
- 671 total hosting inspections was a 192% increase from 2021 levels
- 305 total lake hosting hours was a 50% increase from 2021 levels
- Lake Hosts were active between 5/14 – 9/18, including all 3 long holiday weekends

How do we keep the Lake Host Program strong?

WE NEED LAKE HOST VOLUNTEERS! The key to keeping our Lake Host program strong is through volunteer involvement by our lake community. Without active volunteers to put in just a few hours of hosting time at the ramp, we cannot attain the level of "clean, drain, and dry" education and boat inspections that we need to put up a solid defense against invasives trying to hitchhike their way into our lake. Also, future NH Lakes grant funding depends on our program success each year. The 2022 Lake Host volunteer team for Laurel Lake consisted of: Phil Strahan, Denis Guenette, Tom White, Nancy Fey-Yensan, Ken DeBlieu, Terry Manley, Teri Chavira, and Chip Yensan (local coordinator).

Another important element of keeping our program strong is our seasonal paid Lake Host Inspector. For summer 2023, we're fortunate to have a member of our extended lake community, Vinnie Pierannunzi, serve as our paid Lake Host Inspector. Welcome Vinnie! Please give Vinnie a friendly Laurel Lake "hello" when walking past the ramp this summer!

How do I become a Lake Host Volunteer?

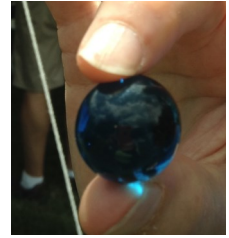
By volunteering just a few of hours at the ramp (any day of the week is appreciated), you will make a difference in the strength of our Lake Host program. Get a free t-shirt and play an important part in keeping our lake clean and invasive-free! Sign up today to be a summer 2023 Lake Host Volunteer at <https://www.laurellakeassn.com/water-quality-environment> or by emailing lakehost@laurellakeassn.com. Thank you to all who volunteer for our Lake Host program in 2023!

Chip Yensan, Lake Host Committee Chair



THE BLUE MARBLE PROJECT

Editor’s Note: For the past several years an annual meeting tradition has been the passing along of a blue marble to represent gratitude for work that benefits the planet. The 2021 recipient was Ken DeBlieu, long time summer resident and dedicated Association volunteer. Sadly, Ken became ill just before the 2022 annual meeting and was unable to physically present the marble to his chosen recipient. However, Ken had written up his presentation speech and his wife Martha read it to us.:



THE BLUE MARBLE PRESENTATION

written by Ken DeBlieu

I need to start off with a little bit of history. In December 1968, Apollo 8 was launched on a voyage to the moon. As the spacecraft neared 100,000 miles from the earth, one of the three astronauts, Bill Anders remarked, “The earth looks like a blue marble.”

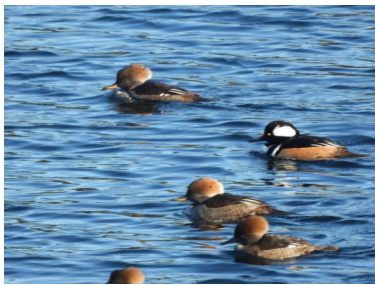
After returning to earth in reference to his comparison he remarked, “We went to the moon but discovered the earth.”

The blue marble symbolizes not just care and stewardship of the lake, but of the earth. It’s passed down every year, and the previous year’s recipient gets to choose the present year’s recipient.

She has grown up at the lake, and I’m sure learned to swim here. In later years work, traveling, and geographic location prevented her from spending as much time as she would have liked here, but, I’m sure her heart was always here. She is currently working as a volunteer in the Aquatic Invasive Species survey, also known as the Weed Watch, and along with her husband Chip, the Lake Host program. This year’s blue marble awardee is Nan Fey-Yensan.

Thanks to Beth Samuels for providing the above.

Lake Visitors. Photos thanks to Gail Connelly, official Ledger photographer!



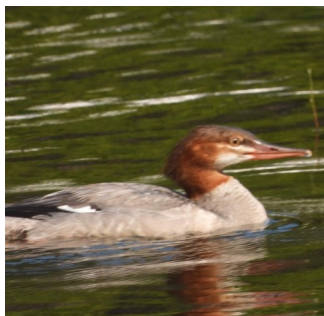
Hooded Mergansers



Black Scooters (quick visit in the Fall)



Mute Swans (first known Fall visit)



Left: Common Merganser

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

My name is Gail Connelly and I am the new Chair of the LLA Membership Committee. Who makes up this committee? I'm hoping it's all of us, my fellow LLA members. Who's better to educate, encourage, and enlist our fellow lake lovers! The current membership total is 201 members in 93 households. Our membership has grown by 13 households but we need more members for a stronger Association. I believe that we can grow if each of us reaches out to a neighbor, a friend, relative, fisherman, or sportsman and explains how important the LLA is to the future of our lake. Here's some help.

What is the Laurel Lake Association? We are a group of citizens devoted to caring for and protecting this amazing lake.

What do we do? We organize and sponsor events that bring our community together and introduce new people to our lake; like the canoe race, the sailing regatta, and the 4th of July flares celebration.

We provide frontline protection by joining and managing the NH Lake Host Program at the boat ramp.

We perform water testing 3 to 4 times per summer collecting samples at varying depths using tools and techniques required by the Department of Environmental Services. We test water clarity, and then deliver our samples to the DES lab in Concord, NH for official testing.

We search for possible invasive plant and animal species that would have severe consequential effects on the water quality of our lake, if left to multiply unnoticed.

We publish this outstanding Laurel Lake Ledger for our membership's education and enjoyment.

Our Board of Directors meet twice a year to plan, organize, and report on projects and activities.

We sponsor an Annual Membership Meeting providing educational guest speakers, committee reports, and then socialize with a fun meal!

We welcome and encourage members and non-members to volunteer in all our efforts to protect and maintain the quality of life on Laurel Lake. But most importantly, we encourage you to contribute by becoming a LLA member. Please join by submitting the membership form in this issue or by going to our website www.laurellakeassn.com. Annual Membership is only \$15.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children under 18.

Thank you for your support!

Gail Connelly



July Fourth celebration



Sara Steiner, NH DES, speaking about invasive species at 2022 annual meeting.



TREASURER'S REPORT

T.S. Eliot lived in eastern Massachusetts when he wrote in *The Waste Land*: "April is the cruelest month..." and I can verify that 100 years after he wrote these words they still hold true. All the more reason to look forward to another wonderful summer at Laurel Lake.

There has been very little activity since the last Treasurer's Report in September of 2022. The only notable change since our last report is that the interest rate on our high yield saving account has increased from 2% to 3.64%, which is close to the top rate for saving accounts. Our savings account now pays more than our remaining CD, and allows for immediate liquidity should we need it.

Our total association assets have increased since our last report. Total association assets as of April 23, 2023 are \$34,059.52. Assets as of the last Treasurer's Report in September 2022 were \$33,696.63.

Income:

Description	Amount
Merchandise Sales	\$1,563.00
Membership + Donations	\$2,135.00
Flare Income	\$455.00
Canoe Race Income (raffle + registration)	\$875.00
	Total Income: \$5,028.00

Expenses:

Expense Description	Amount
Dues / Lake Host Program	\$1550.00
Water Testing	\$150.00
Ledger Printing	\$619.53
Canoe Race	\$1,245.89
Sailboat Regatta	\$156.00
PO Box Rental	\$56.00
Flairs	\$360.00
Merchandise	\$1677.00
Annual Meeting and Cookout	\$661.10
	Total Expenses: \$5,814.42

Details:

Savings and Checking Account Balances (People's Bank / PayPal) as of April 23, 2023

Checking Account balance: **\$13,861.92**.

Certificate of Deposit (Service Credit Union) as of April 23, 2023

Total account balance: **\$4,742.84**

Savings Balance (Live Oak Bank) as of April 23, 2023

Total account balance: **\$15,454.76**

Total Association Assets as of April 23, 2023: \$34,059.52

Mike King, Treasurer



2022-23 OFFICERS

Tom White	President	Kathy Olson	Vice-President
Mike King	Treasurer	Liz Young	Secretary
Perry Nadeau	Past President	Beth Samuels	Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charley Brackett	2024	Bill Townsend	2025
Jeffrey Prunier	2024	Patrick McNamara	2025
Bill Chase	2024	Gail Connelly	2023
Patrick Deyo	2024	Jack Dumont	2023
Barbara Green	2025	Joe Pelkey	2023
Bill Samuels	2025	Terry Silverman	2023

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Kathy Olson	Editor Laurel Lake Ledger
Barbara Green	Water Testing Committee
Open	Aquatic Invasive Species Survey Committee
Chip Yensan	Lake Host Program
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charley Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Bruce Hill	Commodore Dresser-Friedman Sunfish Regatta
Joe Pelkey	LLA Logo Products - T & Sweatshirts & Hats
Gail Connelly	Membership
Barbara Dumont	Nominating Committee
Terry Silverman	4th of July Celebration Flares
John Fitzwilliam	Swim Club Representative
Joe Pagano	Concert on the Lake

Visit the Website: LaurelLakeAssn.com



IN MEMORIAM

Lenny Pelkey, Jr., 63, passed away July 22, 2022. Lenny was a life long Fitzwilliam resident and descendent of one of the town's founding families, the Whites. He worked at Monadnock Lifetime Products and the Fitzwilliam Highway Department. He hunted and fished and was a daily presence at Laurel Lake Campground. He leaves behind his wife Pam, sons Chris & Joe, daughter Alicia and 8 grandchildren.

Lexy Heatley, 55, passed away July 27, 2022 in Hancock. Lexy had a Master's degree in education and taught for many years. She summered at Laurel Lake with her family and from the age of 9 was extensively involved with Camp Fleur de Lis, including camper, counselor and serving as Executive Director for several years. She leaves behind her husband Neal, two stepchildren and the remaining Heatley clan, Craig, Selden and Caroline.

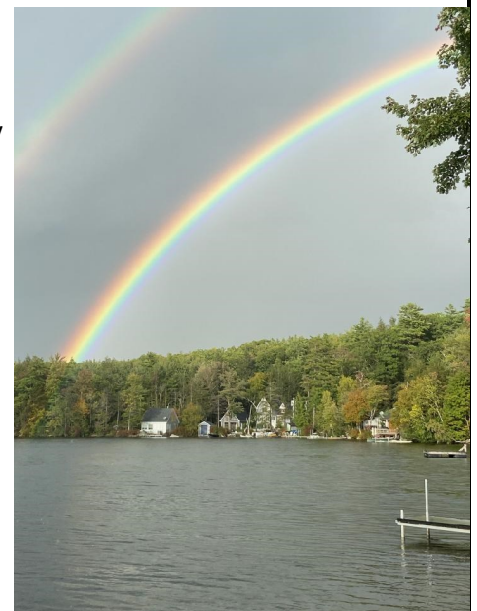
Ken DeBlieu of Stockton, NJ passed away August 24, 2022 at the age of 70. Ken had a degree in communications and worked for over 30 years as photographer & videographer for the New Jersey Governor's office & state office of Information Technology. Ken was active in Free Masons and was an Adventurer, pursuing a variety of activities. Ken vacationed at Laurel Lake since his early teens and was an active volunteer for the lake association, being a weed watcher and Lake Host. He leaves behind his wife Martha, daughter Marijka and 2 granddaughters.

Randy Courtemanche, 62, died August 24, 2022. He worked as a machinist at NH Ball Bearings and previously at Graphicast in Jaffrey. He and his extended family summered at Laurel Lake for many years. He leaves behind his wife Karen, sons Robert & Randy, Jr., 4 grandchildren and 2 brothers & 2 sisters.

Michael Derosé of Springfield, MA passed away September 16, 2022 at the age of 85. He and his wife Barbara were long time owners of a summer home in White's Grove at Laurel Lake. He is survived by Barbara, their 3 children (Michael, Scott & Chris) and 5 grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Dave Woodruff, 75, passed away December 5, 2022 in Delray Beach, FL. Born in Springfield, MA Dave spent summers at Laurel Lake his whole life and was deeply embedded in the White's Grove and Association community, with his parents Bill & Louise Woodruff and wife Jacqi serving on the board of the association. Dave drove trucks and had an excavating business and was a big presence wherever he was. He leaves behind his wife Jacqi, 4 children, 8 grandchildren and brothers Robert and John.

Julie Hull, 68, passed away December 8, 2022 at her winter home in Florida. She was born in Winchendon, MA and worked for Salvadore Motors for many years. She loved going on cruises and visited Alaska, Caribbean & Bermuda, along with other ports. She and her family had a summer home in White's Grove and she annually cheered on her husband Randy's decades of kayaking in the annual canoe/kayak race. She leaves behind Randy, 2 sons, a daughter and 5 grandchildren.





IN MEMORIAM (cont.)

Bob Handy, 79, passed away December 12, 2022 at his home in Fitzwilliam. A life long Fitzwilliam resident, Bob was known for his love of fishing at Laurel Lake and working to protect the lake. He served on the town's advisory board for redesigning the boat ramp and was the Association's paid Lake Host boat inspector for the past 2 years, making boaters feel so welcome.

The Rev. **Allan Lurvey** passed away January 22, 2023 at his home in Stratham, NH at the age of 83. Allan had dual careers his whole life, being a psychologist in private practice and a minister in Congregational churches. Allan vacationed with his wife Phyllis (Bailey Chase) at her summer home at Laurel Lake, when not off exploring the world and his other happy place, St. Thomas. Allan leaves behind Phyllis, his 3 children, 2 stepsons David & Bill Chase and several grandchildren.

Lou Saso, 61, passed away April 3, 2023. Lou was a landscaper, roofer and had his own home improvement business in Wilbraham, MA. Lou and his family spent summers in White's Grove in the camp that had been his wife Kim's grandparents, the Harts. He was an outdoorsman, enjoying hunting & fishing and participating in the association's canoe/kayak races. He leaves behind Kim, children Stephen, Louis Jr. & Lauren and 2 grandchildren.

Anne Korjeff passed away April 24, 2023 at her home in Harwichport, MA at the age of 90. Anne lived most of her life in Holden, MA but was the 7th generation of her family to summer at Laurel Lake. Anne wrote a wonderful article about her family's lake roots for the Laurel Lake Ledger in 2009, available on our website. She first attended Camp Fleur de Lis in 1942 as a camper and served later roles as counselor and board member. She was an active member of the association, serving as a board member from 1993 to 2010 and co-secretary for many years. Anne graduated from Skidmore College and donated her time and talents to local charitable & educational organizations. She leaves behind her husband Mike, daughters Wendy & Sarah and son Gregory and 4 grandchildren.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Laurel Lake Association accomplishes its wonderful work through an all volunteer army of a few dozen people who donate hours of time to achieve our goals of maintaining Laurel Lake as a beautiful, healthy lake. Many of these people have given 20, 30, 40 years of service to the association because they love the lake and get pleasure from their volunteering. Like every organization, we can always use more volunteers and we look to you to offer a few hours of your time in support of lake programs. We've highlighted some functions below where we really need help this summer, with details of what skills & time expectations are needed.

Even if not specifically detailed here, every association program mentioned in this Ledger could benefit from your help in bringing fresh ideas and energy to the program. Have you wondered what those 'weeds' are growing in the water by your place? Doing AIS surveying will educate you on the common plants we see in the water and which ones we **don't** want to see. Wonder how we know the health of the lake water? Becoming a water tester will expose you to the mechanics of water sampling and what and why we test for certain things. Are you an experienced boater and know how important it is to clean, drain & dry your boat to protect lake waters? A few hours in the summer being a Lake Host lets you help educate others & gives you a chance to socialize with other boaters at the boat landing. Or, are you new to Laurel Lake and want to meet other people who share your love for your new place? Joining and volunteering with the Association is a great way to meet other like-minded folks.

(continued...)



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES (Continued)

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Chairperson: Functions include training volunteers on how to search for and identify aquatic species, especially invasive ones; assigning volunteers to sections of lake for surveying; finding a volunteer if another one cannot complete their survey section; helping identify suspicious vegetation/species & send info. to DES if needed; copy section survey information onto lake map & send to DES at end of season; meet with volunteers once or twice a summer or as needed; interface with DES coordinator for new protocols; summarize findings to Association board and members at meetings and report for Ledger.

AIS Survey Volunteer: Learn to identify & quantify aquatic vegetation and animal species in a shoreline section of the lake, including 'normal' species and invasives; spend 2 to 4 hours per month for 3-4 summer months on the water (in canoe, kayak, rowboat, float, etc.) conducting a survey, marking findings on a map; returning map to Chairperson each month in a timely fashion; attending 1-2 meetings with AIS committee per summer, as needed. Note: new volunteers are paired with an experienced person to supplement book & video training.

Lake Host Volunteer: Function is to greet boaters at boat landing, educate them on the lake host program, ask to inspect their boat & trailer on arrival & departure. Requirements include: train on boat/trailer inspection methods and personal interaction techniques (provided by Host Coordinator); initially pair with experienced host for training; learn record keeping requirements (# boats inspected, findings, etc.) per hosting shift; wear cool Lake Host t-shirt while hosting; sign up for 2-4 hour shift at boat landing on a day/time that is convenient for you (not overlapping with our paid host who typically covers weekends & holidays). Interface with Host Coordinator for scheduling and hand off of reports. Volunteers provide their own chair, snacks, sun shade as needed for their shift and display Lake Host sign while on duty. You can sign up for as many or as few shifts as you like from May through October. Must be at least 17.

Water Testing Volunteer: Learn to use water testing equipment via online & hands-on training; collect water samples from boat & tributaries; record testing procedures & results. Testing is about 3 hours a month, 3-4 summer months. We can always use volunteers with a party boat for water sample collection; someone to drive test samples to the DES lab in Concord immediately after sample collection.

Canoe/Kayak Race: Always a need for help with race registration (setup starting 8:30 am), parking, directions for participants, cooking hot dogs, acting as a race official on the water. Volunteer time is day of the race and meeting ahead of time with race chairperson, Charley Brackett.

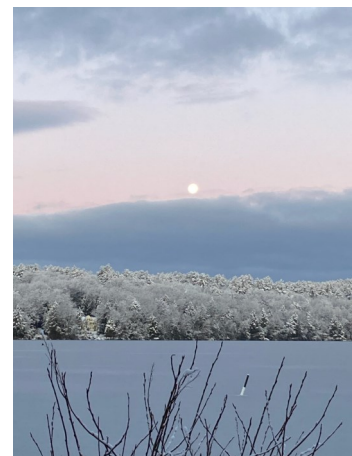
Annual Meeting Picnic: Help with donating/hauling gas grill to cook food; set-up picnic tables; help cook & serve food; cleanup.

If you would like to know more or want to volunteer your time, please contact us via: President@laurellakeassn.com or VicePresident@laurellakeassn.com or LakeHost@laurellakeassn.com; or use the 'Contact Us' link on our website.

Kathy Olson



Spring (??) at Laurel Lake. Left picture taken March 1, 2023, showing a phenomenon called sublimation. Right picture taken March 24, 2023. Photos courtesy of Gail Connelly.



Elliot Institute Concerts on the Fitzwilliam Common Summer 2023

These concerts are made possible by the generosity of the Elliot Institute Trust Fund, established in 1927. All performances will be from 7:00-8:30 pm. In case of inclement weather, the venue will be upstairs in the Town Hall or at the Emerson School Gymnasium. **(Please check the signboards).**

July 13th: "Tom Foolery Band": A seven piece band playing rock, big band and jazz music.... classic rock at its finest. This group is popular throughout Cheshire County.

July 20th: "The Green Sisters": Four multi-instrumentalist singers who perform folk, country, bluegrass, and Irish music. This group is a returning favorite.

July 27th: "The Mark's Brothers": A four piece danceable, rock-n-roll jam band.... classic rock at its finest.

Aug 3rd: "Gaslight Tinkers": A blend of global, danceable music of Afrobeat, Caribbean funk and Latin tunes meets up with Northern fiddle music.

Aug 10th: "Banish Misfortune": A six piece traditional Irish music band...full of energy and nostalgia.

Aug 17th: "Willie J Laws Band": one of the most notable Blues acts with a classic Rhythm & Blues, Country, blue/funk that grows from the Texas soil.

Fitzwilliam Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market season begins on Saturday, May 20, 9am to 1pm on the Fitzwilliam common and will be held the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month through October 7. Opening day on the 20th includes the garden club plant & bake sale, a special children's program at the Library, the Blake Historical Museum is open for tours. The common will be hopping twice a month and local foods (veggies, meats, jerky, sauces, breads, sweets, baked goods, fruits) and crafts will be available and maybe some music to entertain. Join the fun & get some of your groceries this summer!



Kids sack race after the annual meeting picnic



Still going strong at 72, lake resident David ('Fido') Brackett out for a good day of water skiing on the lake.



Right: Annual meeting attendees listening to Sara Steiner, DES, talk about invasive plants & animals.



LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

www.LaurelLakeAssn.com

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$15.00 for adult membership and \$5.00 for children under 18 yrs. old

LAUREL LAKE LEDGER: Each household of paid members will receive a copy of the Laurel Lake Ledger via USPS or email (please select delivery method below). Ledgers will be posted on the Laurel Lake Association website with password access.

FOR THE YEAR: 20 _____

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	ADULT	CHILD	AMOUNT
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

If you wish, you may also include an additional donation to help support the Association.

Donation Amount: _____

Total: _____

PERMANENT ADDRESS

Street: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

SUMMER ADDRESS

same as above

Street: _____ Apt: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

LEDGER DELIVERY PREFERENCE

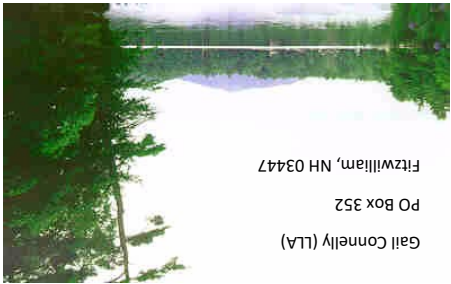
I would like to receive the Ledger via email address: _____

I would like to receive the Ledger via USPS delivery.

Make checks payable to *Laurel Lake Association*. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION!**

Please mail all membership forms and checks to:

Gail Connelly – Laurel Lake Association
PO Box 352
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447



Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

PO Box 352

Gail Connelly (LLA)