



A Little Spot of Heaven

The Laurel Lake Ledger

Laurel Lake Association

28th Annual Newsletter Spring 2015

THE LAUREL LAKE CANOE AND KAYAK RACE – 25TH ANNIVERSARY

It is hard to imagine that August 1, 2015 will mark the 25th Anniversary of the annual Laurel Lake Canoe and Kayak Race. It started modestly on August 24, 1991 with fourteen canoes and three kayaks. That first year featured two races, a 2.5 mile race (one lap around the lake) and a ¾ mile children's race.

In 1993, the 5 mile race (2 laps around the lake) was added which attracted more experienced canoeists. Over the years, a variety of different races were added which included paddle boats, a 1.5 mile Junior/Senior race and stand-up paddle boards. By 2010, there were more than fifty canoes and kayaks participating in the 20th anniversary of the race. The number of participants had also increased to around 65 people. Last year there were 70 participants and 46 boats. Over the years, one of the most anticipated events is the Canoe Tug "O" War contest held at the conclusion of the race. Started in 2000, this aspect has generated a lot of hilarious moments for the participants and on-lookers alike.

From its inception, Charley Brackett has been the driving force for each canoe and kayak race. Charley has been a serious competitor in canoe races on both the local and national levels. He is also known for his skills in white water canoe racing. For over thirty years, he has consistently placed highly with other competitors in these races. Indeed, he will readily admit that the inspiration for the Laurel Lake Race was the larger River Rat Race held on the Miller's River in Athol and Orange, MA which is held in April every year.

With a modest beginning in 1991, the race has continued to grow each year. By the mid-1990s, the need for more volunteer workers was apparent. Fortunately, quite a number of Laurel Lake folks have donated their time and efforts to ensure that the race has continued. The preparation for the staging of a canoe and kayak race is not a simple or an easy task. There are a lot of factors that are involved in making the event happen. Publicity for the event must begin months before the actual date. This includes posting notices around the lake, distributing registrations to individual cottages, notices in local newspapers, and posting advertisements at local businesses in town. Another important element is arranging for volunteer race officials who donate their time (and boats) to ensure the safety of the people paddling in the race. Another key component are the volunteers who help the competitors with processing the registrations, what races they wish to enter, and assigning the numbers to the various boats that will be used. Another element is arranging parking facilities and provide the ability to unload the canoes and kayaks for all the people who will be racing. On the evening before the race, the various course buoys are placed around for all the races that will be held the next day. The last component is to arrange for all the food and beverages that folks will consume as the race goes through its different stages.

First Race Winners, 1991:



1st place canoe	Bryan Bradley, John Bradley
2nd place canoe	Damon Mahoney, Dan Mahoney
3rd place canoe	Wayne Rigg, Jim Flaherty
1st place kayak	Daniel Jackson
2nd place kayak	Bob Courtemanche

Canoe/Kayak Race (Continued):

As the years have gone on, The Laurel Lake Canoe and Kayak has become a memorable event that people look forward to every summer season. The most amazing fact is that the weather for every single race held has always been good. No rain date has ever been used for any of the races. We all look forward to celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the race on August 1st.

Submitted by **Steve Olson**

Charley Brackett with Tug 'O' War Winners, 2014:



Sandy Beach crowd watching Tug 'O' War, 2014:



Laurel Lake Association Logo Apparel

We will offer a selection of hats, t-shirts and sweatshirts for sale at the Annual Meeting, Saturday, July 11, White's Field and the 25th Annual Canoe Race, on August 1, 2015.

If you are not able to attend or have special orders, you may contact Bulldog Designs in Keene, NH. <http://www.bulldog-design.com> or 603-903-0009. You may also contact Jessica Pierannunzi at 603-355-5274 with additional questions.

Rising phosphate levels in Laurel Lake (see water testing report) are putting the lake at risk and you can help prevent that. **Remember:** to use phosphate-free cleaners (dish soaps, shampoos, laundry detergents) and phosphate free lawn fertilizers. Even better: don't fertilize your lawn by the lake at all! Also remember to regularly pump your septic system, keep natural ground covers & shrubs by the lake and control water run-off into the lake. Also, don't clean your boats where rinse water can flow into the lake or nearby tributaries. And, reduce or eliminate burning by the lake where ash can fall into the lake.



LAKE HOST PROGRAM

The Laurel Lake Association has completed two years of sponsoring the New Hampshire Lake Association's Lake Host Program. Laurel Lake is one of 82 lakes in New Hampshire that has this program in which a courtesy boat inspection along with education is done with boaters to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. In 2013 the program at Laurel Lake was totally run by volunteers. Last year the Laurel Lake Association received \$1000 from the state association to pay for some of the Lake Host time. Two individuals were hired to cover boat inspections primarily on weekends and holidays. In addition, 287 hours were covered by volunteers. In total last year, 422 hours were covered by paid staff and volunteers and 307 inspections were done. The volunteers stepping forward to help last year were Liz Young, Deb Nance, Steve Proctor, Barbara Green, David Green, Cal Perry and Barbara Brooks.

The boaters at Laurel Lake have been very receptive to the program. When a boat arrives at the ramp they are greeted by a Lake Host who explains the program and asks if they can inspect their boat. An inspection is done looking for aquatic invasive species; if anything suspicious is found it is sent out to the state for definitive identification. An important part of this encounter is the education done regarding how to clean, drain and dry your boat and trailer to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Laurel Lake has several lakes around us that have aquatic invasive species. It puts our lake in a perilous position for if an aquatic invasive species infestation gets into our lake it would make recreation in and on the lake dangerous and unpleasant, it could disrupt the ecological balance of our lake, reduce shoreline property values through the reduction of aesthetic and recreational uses of the water body, and is difficult and expensive to control. Since the main way invasive aquatic plants and animals are spread is through the transportation of fragments or larvae or on boats and trailers from infested waterbodies to uninfested waterbodies it makes a program like the Lake Host Program extremely important. The importance of the NH Lake Host Program was recognized this past winter for it received two awards. One, the Spirit of New Hampshire 2014 Outstanding Volunteer Champion Award and the other the 2015 Outstanding Invasive Species Volunteer Award at the National Invasive Species Achievement Awards Ceremony in Washington, D.C.

This summer we will once again be looking for volunteers so we can provide this valuable service at our boat ramp and protect our lake. If you are interested or have questions call Barbara Brooks 603-585-6842. Training is provided.

Submitted by **Barbara Brooks**



Supermoon over Laurel Lake, August 10, 2014.

Photo from Jack Dumont

**2015 SUMMER EVENTS—LAUREL LAKE ASSOCIATION****MAY**

30th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis

30th - 6:00 PM - The 18th Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Supper will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis dining hall. Enjoy an evening with friends and neighbors by starting off the summer season at Laurel Lake. Bring your own drinks and a dish to share. Coffee, silverware, and paper goods will be provided.

JULY

4th - **9:30 PM** - Celebrate the Fourth of July with the traditional lighting of flares around Laurel Lake.

Flares are available for purchase at Bottoms Up (Rt. 12), Pottery Works (Rt. 119) and at the Samuels' camp (18 Laurel Lane). (Regular road flares may contain phosphorous and can be bad for the lake. The flares sold by the association are safe for use by the lake.)

11th - 10:30 AM - The **Annual meeting** will be held at White's Field, Laurel Lake Campground, Keene Ave. Our featured topic is "Soak Up the Rain". Our speaker is Jillian McCarthy, Stormwater Coordinator from New Hampshire's Department of Environmental Services, who will speak about lakefront land-scaping and managing stormwater runoff. Association business will also be addressed and a picnic lunch follows the meeting. Bring a chair (none provided).

AUGUST

1st - 11:00 AM - The **25th** Annual Canoe/Kayak Race at Sandy Beach. Registration starts at 9:30 AM. Kids race at 11:05 a.m., 1.5 mile Jr/Sr at 11:00, 5 miler at 12:20, 2.5 mile at 12:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

5th - 1:00 PM - The **28th** Dresser-Friedman Regatta. Rain date is September 5 at 1:00 p.m..

12th - 9:00 AM - The Board of Directors will meet at Camp Fleur de Lis.

13th - 10:30 AM - The Laurel Lake Association Pot Luck Brunch will be held at Camp Fleur de Lis to celebrate the finale of the 2015 Summer season. Bring a brunch dish to share. Coffee, plates & silverware will be provided.



Message from the President of the Laurel Lake Association

It's official! There is water under all that ice. The ice went out this year officially on the 18th of April. That's the 5th latest date since 1963! This report was derived from the Official "unofficial" records kept by our own "Ice Out Officer" (aka David Streeter). Thanks Dave! Ice out is not our largest concern this year, however. There will be fine weather, the Lake will warm, trees and plants will bloom, all the things we expect and love about our time in Fitzwilliam. We now have an active quarry (that may well become more active) and a proposed gas pipe line to think about. They put our concerns about lake water quality and the weeds in the Lake in perspective. That said, our concerns about the later are no less real, there are simply more to think about!! These certainly present a new range of challenges to us as Summer residents (only a few can actually vote in Town) and as members of an Association with a stated mission to protect the environment of and about the Lake. Our aim now must continue to be no different than before - get the word out that there are those who are concerned. We must not be shy - we must be willing to step up, be counted and be unashamed about our desire to protect the Lake. Our job is real AND daunting; with the support of the Association, we can prevail!

This is not the usual sort of President's message I have provided the Newsletter over the past several years, but this is not to be a usual year for our Association. Along with the sun and fun so expected, we have a job to do! Looking forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting.

Cal Perry and Mary Ann

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The current membership numbers for the 2014 membership year are:

256 Adults

14 Children

270 Total members in 147 Households

The final numbers for 2013 were: 264 Total members in 140 Households.

There are there are already 32 memberships paid for 2015.

As always, thanks for your continued support. **Perry Nadeau**



IN MEMORIUM

Laurel Lake lost several members of its family in the past several months. Below are short tributes to many fine people who will be missed by so many of us.

White's Grove will be missing an icon this summer. **Howard "Bucky" Main** died in November, 2014 after a period of failing health. Bucky and his wife, Catherine, purchased their first camp in 1977 up on South Pond Road after being introduced to Laurel Lake by their son Bill, who was working in Donn Brackett's Coke Room. They immediately fell in love with the lake, their camp, and the camaraderie of the lake families. Through the years he dealt many a card game, swam for miles to and from "Turtle Rock", and listened to countless radio broadcasts of Yankee games while sitting on Sandy Beach.

Bucky was a math teacher in the Keene school district for over 30 years, and he was the Varsity Baseball coach from 1967-1989, leading his team to three state championships. He was a loving father to his children, Bill, Lisa, Dan and Molly, and a grandfather to seven grandchildren. He was called Grandpa Main by many more children as well. Bucky's quick wit, ready smile, and gentle teasing will be missed by many. (Contributed by Jeannette Gardner)

Jay McNamara, husband of Debbie Dresser McNamara, died November 29, 2014 in Hartford, CT at the age of 64. Jay spent many summers at Laurel Lake visiting the cottage of his in-laws, Barbara and Gardner Dresser. He was an active sailor, participating in the Dresser-Friedman Regattas as well as occasionally acting as the Commodore. In 2012, Jay set the regatta course record, only to have it broken two years later by his son, Patrick. Jay worked as a computer service technician and spent many years as a volunteer for the Boy Scouts of America. He leaves his wife, Debbie of East Hartford, Ct, a daughter, Jillian, and her husband Christopher McCue, a son, Patrick and his wife Caitlin McNamara, and one grandson, Aiden McCue. (Contributed by Beth Samuels)

Richie White, 67, passed away in July 2014. Richie was a descendant of the White family who settled the north side of Laurel Lake and 12th generation of the Whites who arrived in Massachusetts in 1624. A paratrooper during the Vietnam War, he was severely wounded and eventually lost his leg. He excelled at playing tennis with his prosthesis leg, including teaching tennis to children in Springfield, MA and adults in Fitzwilliam. He spent many a weekend at the family camp, bringing his Dad, Bob, to the lake. The White's Grove and Sandy Beach crowd will miss him, along with his children, Cara, Cory, Alexis and Gabrielle and 6 grandchildren.

George Engel, 65, of Fitzwilliam, passed away April, 2015. George and his wife Barbara were active members of the Association, attending the annual meetings and pot luck events. George always bedazzled us with his painted toe nails, compliments of his grandchildren! George was a retired Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War and an avid hunter and fisherman. He was a big supporter of wildlife conservation and preserving wetlands. In addition to his wife Barbara, he leaves 3 children.

Paula Thompson Cuomo, 57, of Fitzwilliam, passed away March 2015 after a battle with cancer. Paula was the Town Administrator of Fitzwilliam and worked for the Town for 20 years. Paula was a partner with the Laurel Lake Association in many ways, providing town support in protecting the lake. Paula was a musician, playing piano and organ and serving as choir director and a talented knitter and quilter. She leaves behind her husband Gene, daughters Samantha and Abigail and step-daughter Lydia.

Ivan DeBlieu, 95, of Wilmington, Delaware passed away November, 2014. Ivan, his wife Helen and their children vacationed at Laurel Lake for many years and as recently as 2013 visited at their son Ken's camp by Sandy Beach. Ivan was a chemical engineer who spent 42 years working at DuPont Chemical specializing in the development of plastics, including reflective lane markers used on highways, and setting international standards for plastic pipes. After retirement he continued teaching and taking classes at the University of Delaware's Academy of Lifelong Learning. Besides his wife of 64 years, Ivan leaves his sons Ken and Doug, daughter Jan and 3 grandchildren.

(Continued:)



Memoriums (Continued):

Jim Deyo of Athol died April, 2015 at the age of 97. Jim was a machinist and foreman at several manufacturing companies and a very talented builder and remodeler. He rebuilt and restored several camps at Laurel Lake including two he bought in the mid-70s and continued to visit through last summer. His late wife Midge was on the Association Board of Directors in the 1980s. Jim was a well loved fixture in the White's Grove family and will be missed by us and his children, Gary, Ralph and Pat and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Tips for Spring Clean-up

Remove storm debris in accordance with the Shoreland Water Quality Protection Act. If your property is located within 250 feet of a lake or river, downed and damaged trees and trees posing an imminent hazard or threat may be felled and removed. But, be sure to leave the stumps in the ground since stumps do a very good job preventing soil from being eroded off of the landscape and polluting the water (and, it is also illegal to remove the stumps). Trees and storm debris can be removed from water bodies. If equipment is necessary for removal of debris from waterbodies, be sure to monitor the equipment for fluid leakage and use temporary work pads to lessen the impacts to the shoreline. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services recommends that property owners take photographs of damaged trees and structures for documentation.

From NH Lakes Assoc. March 2015 Newsletter

2014 Annual Meeting. Speakers were Carol Stein & David McTigue who spoke about the geology and hydrology of Laurel Lake and their risk assessment of the impact on Laurel Lake from potential active quarrying on Webb Hill & other locations in Fitzwilliam.

A copy of their presentation is available on the Laurel Lake Assoc. web site: www.laurellakeassn.com.





SAFE BOATING PRACTICES

There is nothing better than a summer day, boating at the lake. As you get ready to set out for the season, here are some reminders about boating laws in New Hampshire. The New Hampshire Fish and Game Department oversees boat safety and enforces NH state boating laws on the waterways.

Take the Boating Safety Course

NH Law requires a Safe Boater Education Certificate for persons at least 16 years old who operate a motor vessel over 25 hp., or a ski craft. Vessel operators are required to carry the card on board the vessel and have it available for inspection by an enforcement officer. A person, over 18 years old, with a certificate, must accompany anyone under the age of 16 who is operating a vessel.

On Board Safety

Pay attention to the boats capacity, don't overload.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs): there must be one USCG approved Type I, II, III or V life jacket for each person on board. The Type V must be worn to count. If the vessel is over 16 feet, there must be a type IV throwable PFD on board and immediately accessible. Children 12 years old and younger must wear a PFD while underway.

If you are in a powered vessel you need to have an appropriate fire extinguisher.

Use Your Lights -- All boats operating after sunset until sunrise must display visible lights.

Navigation

White with black Top buoy: If heading east or west, go north of this buoy. If heading north or south, go east of this buoy.

White with red top: If heading east or west, go south of this buoy. If heading north or south, go west of this buoy.

It is illegal to moor to or move any buoy, (except of course a mooring buoy).

Every non-motorized vessel you will encounter on the lake has the right of way over a motorized vessel. Non-motorized vessels cannot move as fast or maneuver as quickly as motor vessels.

Towing a Water Skier or Tube

All persons being towed behind a vessel on water skis or any other device **must wear** a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, or III personal flotation device (life jacket). Ski belts are illegal.

In addition to the operator, an observer must be on board to observe the progress of the person being towed. The observer must be at least 13 years old, able to determine if a skier is in trouble, and to assist the skier.

No more than two persons may be towed from a single vessel at any one time. If two persons are being towed, there must be two observers on board, in addition to the operator, who meet the requirements above.

Persons may be towed behind a vessel on water skis or any other device during daylight hours (sunrise to sunset) **only**.

When returning to the shore with a skier, the towing vessel and the skier must remain at least 150 feet from shore.

Unsafe Passage is not maintaining a proper speed or distance while operating a vessel or while towing a person on water skis or any similar device. Specifically, the following operations are illegal.

- Operating a vessel at greater than headway speed if within 150 feet of:
 - Swimmers in the water
 - Other vessels
 - Rafts or floats
 - The shoreline
 - Permitted swimming areas - Docks or mooring fields

Boating While Intoxicated

NH law prohibits any one from boating while intoxicated. Operating any vessel, regardless of how it is propelled, while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, is illegal.

If your blood alcohol concentration is .08% or greater, you are considered to be under the influence of alcohol.

If your blood alcohol concentration is .03% but less than .08%, combined with other evidence can be used to determine if you are under the influence.



Safe Boating Practices (Continued):

Persons convicted of boating under the influence will:

- Lose the privilege to operate a vessel for at least one year.
- Have the BWI conviction become part of their motor vehicle driving record.
- Receive a fine.
- Have their driver's license or privilege to drive a motor vehicle revoked for not less than nine months, not to exceed two years.
- If convicted while transporting a person under 16 years of age, the operator must complete a seven-day residential intervention program at his or her own expense.
- If there is a death caused by the BWI, he or she may be charged with a felony.

Ski Craft

All laws that apply to other motorized vessels apply to Ski Craft. In addition:

- Ski craft may **only** be operated during daylight hours. (sunrise to sunset)
- All onboard the Ski Craft must be wearing a PFD.
- They must not weave through congested waterways
- They must not operate in any careless or negligent way or in a way that endangers the life, limb, or property of others.
- Jumping the wake of a passing boat, or riding too close to another PWC or boat, creates risk and is restricted

Do not attempt to spray others with the wake of your PWC. Not only is this discourteous, but is also dangerous and reckless operation.

Safe Paddling

- Always wear a PFD
- Never paddle alone
- Don't overload the craft
- Stay alert to surroundings

This is just what I thought were the major points of boating safety as it pertains to Laurel Lake. This is by no means all-inclusive. All the information was taken from the New Hampshire Dept. Of Safety web site. I hope it is a good "refresher" for all the boaters on this lovely lake.



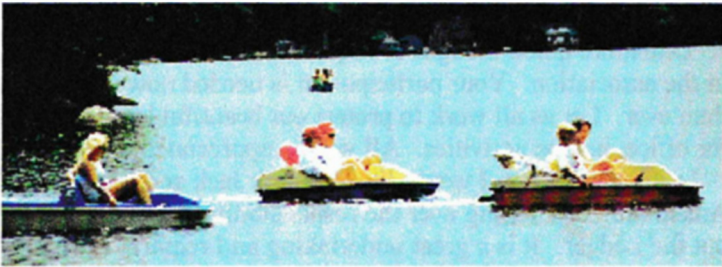
For a full list of laws and safety rules, or for more information on obtaining a Boater Education Card, Contact the N.H. Marine Patrol Bureau; [visit www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boatinged/index.html](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boatinged/index.html) or call 888-254-2125 or 603-267-7256.

To print the Boating Education Handbook visit: https://www.boated.com/assets/pdf/handbook/nh_handbook_entire.pdf

Submitted by **Frank Pierannunzi, US Coast Guard, Retired**

2000 Canoe Race

The Canoe and Kayak Races



Paddle boats at the canoe race

2010 Race:



2002 Race. Charley Brackett & Donn Brackett, winner of Old Fart Award (oldest participant)



2010 Kids Race Winners:

Race Official:





2010 Kids Race:



2011 Race:



2014 Race Start:



2104 Tug 'O' War:



2014 Awards Ceremony at Bob White's Field:



Charley Brackett & Jason Pryor awarding metal to young participant:





WEED SURVEY REPORT 2014

Laurel Lake, Fitzwilliam, NH

In 2014, for the second year in a row, our weed watchers conducted three surveys. Each survey was done around the third week of June, July and August.

The good news is that in 2014 we can still report that no exotic or invasive weeds were discovered by members of the group. A few weed samples that were felt to be new or different were sent to Amy Smagula and her staff at NH DES for identification. None of the samples were of exotic or invasive species.

The most common weeds (floating heart, lobelia and pipewort) were observed throughout the lake in various concentrations. Other weeds (wild celery or tape grass, burrweed, pondweeds, quillwort, pickerelweed, bladderwort and others) as well as water lilies, were seen in some sections of the lake. White water lilies were much more prevalent than yellow water lilies. Some of the submerged pondweeds did not appear to grow to the surface in 2014, possibly due to the cooler summer temperatures. Gelatinous green algae was very prevalent during the summer in the more shallow areas where the water was warmer.

As in 2012 and 2013, some bryozoans were seen this year (although in much smaller numbers and size than previously) attached to submerged branches. These are freshwater aquatic invertebrates not hazardous to human health and not indicating a pollution problem. Also seen in the lake was filamentous algae (looks like cotton candy floating under the surface). This is made up of hair like strands of microscopic plant algae and forms in shallow water where sunlight reaches the bottom. This growing algae produces oxygen which gets trapped in the strands and makes it buoyant. Filamentous algae is normal and important in a lake as long as it does not become excessive which may indicate a phosphorus pollution problem.

A 'thank you' goes to our group of weed watches who have been participating for the last three or more years: Debby Nance, Barbara Green, Roberta Nadeau, Tricia LeClaire, Barbara Dumont, Phyllis Lurvey, Ken DeBlieu, Steve Olson, Linda Anderson, Mary Ann Perry and Catherine, Brad and Ned Greeley. Also joining the group in 2014 was Gail Connelly-Spicer. We would welcome others interested in participating. It is a fascinating experience, does not take a lot of time and keeps you up to date on what is happening in the lake.

Some other surrounding lakes and ponds now have exotic or invasive weeds. The Lake Host Program, now active for Laurel Lake, will help to prevent such weeds from entering the lake. Our weed watch program will help to catch, as early as possible, any such weeds that may enter the lake. Also, the observance of anything strange or different in the lake by individual lake residents is extremely important.

Submitted by Weed Watch Co-Chairs: **Beth Samuels and Bill Townsend**

Laurel Lake Ledger

You can opt out of receiving the Ledger in hard copy when you complete your annual renewal form. You will instead receive an email telling you the new issue is available at the web site. Also, please include your email address on your renewal form for this and so we can contact you via email to bring you urgent updates if needed. The Laurel Lake Ledger is available at our Web site www.LaurelLakeAssn.com, by clicking on the Newsletter tab. All old issues, going back to 1988, have been scanned and uploaded as .pdf files. There is a wealth of history not only of the Association but also Laurel Lake and Fitzwilliam in these old issues and you should check them out. They may bring back some fond memories of past events and people. (K.O.)



**Laurel Lake Association
Treasurer's Report Year Ending October 31, 2014**

	Expenditures	Income	Difference
T-shirts, etc.	1961.53	2325.00	+ \$363.47
Flares	0	505.00	+505.00
Canoe Race	1380.72	1245.00	-135.72
Donations	0	180.00	+180.00
Membership		2420.00	+2420.00
Dues	430.00		
Postal Supplies	57.80		
Ledger	511.49		
Annual Meeting	296.00		
Pot Luck & BOD	56.53		
Conference Fees	306.15		
Concerned Citizens	2250.00		
Water testing	478.00		
Regatta	62.95		
<u>Checking account interest</u>		<u>0.58</u>	
Totals	\$7791.17	\$6675.58	-\$1115.59
Checking Account Beginning Balance:		\$4277.87	
Minus Expenditures		-1115.59	
Current Balance		\$3162.48	
CD Beginning Balance	20691.98		
CD Interest for 2013-14	208.14		
Present Value	20900.12		
Total Assets: CDs:	20900.12		
Checking Account:	3162.48		
Total:	\$24062.26		

Respectfully submitted,
Jeannette Gardner, Treasurer



2014 - 2015 OFFICERS

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James A. Baldwin	2015	Jon LeClaire	2016
Barbara Green	2015	Terry Silverman	2016
Kathy Olson	2015	Charley Brackett	2017
Bill Samuels	2015	Barbara Brooks	2017
Jack Dumont	2016	Bill Chase	2017
Craig Heatley, Jr	2016	Jessica Pierannunzi	2017

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Kathy & Steve Olson	Editors Laurel Lake Ledger
Barbara Green	Water Testing Committee
Beth Samuels/Bill Townsend	Weed Survey Committee
Barbara Dumont	Nominating
Jack & Barbara Dumont	Annual Meeting/Family Picnic
Charley Brackett	Canoe/Kayak Race
Rob Prunier	Dresser-Friedman Sunfish Regatta
Jessica Pierannunzi	LLA Logo Products - T & Sweatshirts & Hats
Perry Nadeau	Membership/Boat Parade
Barbara Brooks	Lake Host Program
Terry Silverman	4th of July Celebration
Carl "Skip" Hagstrom	Swim Club Representative

Visit our Web Site at: www.LaurelLakeAssn.com



LAKE WATER MONITORING RESULTS 2014

Collecting data from the same location on the lake (the deep spot) over a long period is very useful for detecting changes in the quality of the water over time. For the 26th consecutive summer the Laurel Lake Association participated in the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). Our team collected samples in June, July and August and they were analyzed at the DES laboratory in Concord. A concise two-page report of the 2014 results for Laurel Lake is available on the VLAP website at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2014/documents/laurel-fitzwilliam.pdf.

There is also a helpful document called "How to Read Your Report" at: http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/vlap/annual_reports/2014/documents/how-to-read-your-report.pdf.

You will find 2014 average summer test results for Laurel Lake's deep spot and graphs showing trends over time. State personnel sample the public beach and Camp Fleur De Lis for *E. coli*. We collect additional samples for *E. coli* at Sandy Beach, the Swim Club, and tributaries. Following is a brief summary of the results. (*Note: Chemistry tests are done on deep spot and tributary samples.*)

Chlorophyll-a (*indicates concentration of algae*): levels were low, less than the state median and stable throughout the summer. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) chlorophyll since monitoring began. This is good!

Conductivity/Chloride (*indicator of pollution*): Average deep spot and Keene Ave. tributary conductivity and chloride levels were approximately equal to the state medians and remained stable throughout the summer. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) upper water layer conductivity since monitoring began. This is a good trend.

E. coli: Tributary and beach levels were low on all sampling dates and did not exceed the state standards of 88 counts/100 mL for surface waters.

Total Phosphorous: Upper and middle water layer phosphorus levels were stable from June through August. Average upper level phosphorous increased from 2013, but was less than the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates relatively stable upper level phosphorus with moderate variability between years. Lower level phosphorus was elevated in August and the turbidity was also slightly elevated. This suggests that, as the summer progressed and the dissolved oxygen level decreased in the lower water layer, phosphorous was released from the bottom sediments, a process called internal loading. The Keene Ave. tributary was sampled in July. This was the only tributary sampled in 2014. Phosphorus levels were elevated, but within the average range for that location. There was little rain before June and August sampling dates, so tributaries were not flowing on sampling days. Overall the results are good.

Transparency: Secchi measurements from June to August showed better transparency than the state median, but historical trend analysis continues to show significantly decreasing (worsening) transparency since monitoring began 26 years ago.

pH: The pH of the upper water level on each sampling day was within the desirable range of 6.5 – 8.0 units to support aquatic life. The pH has been stable since monitoring began. The bottom layer and tributary samples were less than desirable.

Recommended Actions: The improving chlorophyll and conductivity trends are encouraging. Upper level phosphorous and pH levels also appear to be improving, though not significantly. Lake and watershed residents should continue their efforts to reduce nutrient loading into the lake by using phosphate free fertilizers, planting native shoreline vegetation, and reducing stormwater runoff from their properties.

Many thanks to the 2014 season monitoring team: Craig Heatley, Ann Kanamine, Phyllis Lurvey, Perry Nadeau, Roberta Nadeau, Delaney Nadeau, Kathy Olson, Daniel Shrives, and Rachel Shrives.

Submitted by **Barbara Green**, Chair, Water Testing Committee



2014 CANOE AND KAYAK RACE RESULTS

The 24th annual canoe and kayak race was a great success, with a good number of participants - 70 and 46 boats, up from last year. There were twice as many kayaks as canoes and 5 paddle boards, the newest event. Charley Brackett's good weather luck held again—cloudy but no rain. The kids race had 16 children, half from Fleur de Lis and several children of members. The 2.5 mile race had 31 participants, the 5 miler had 6, the 1.5 mile Junior/Senior race only had one boat (a good class to enter if you want a trophy!).

2014 Race Winners:

5 Mile Race

- Men's Racing Canoe—Andy Ouellet & Dave Lamareaux
Men's Solo Canoe— Brian Mardirosian
Women's Kayak—Pam Browning
Men's Kayak—Lou Carrier

2.5 Mile Race

- Men's Canoe—Eric Jones & Fred Thompson
Jr/Sr Canoe—David & Logan Krug & Michael Warner
Mixed Canoe—Dan Arcaro & Clover Su
Women's Kayak—Michele DeCarlo
Men's Kayak—Kyle Roy
Tandem Kayak—Chad Hill & Ethan Hill

Children's Race—3/4 mile

- Girl's Canoe—Sydney Russell & Julia Balbach
Girl's Kayak—Bela Chung
Boy's Kayak—Austin Lourake

1.5 Mile Junior/Senior Race

- Jeff Gardner, Braxton Gardner & Vinnie Pierannunzi

1.5 Mile Paddle Board

- 16 & Under: Lily Pierannunzi
17 & Up: Dave MacLean

Tug 'O' War Winner:

Runners Up:

Youngest Participant:

Oldest Participant:

- David Arcaro & Ethan Heller
Dan Arcaro & Eric Jones
Braxton Gardner, 2 years old
Peter Niemi, 73 years old

Submitted by Kathy Olson

Volunteer Opportunities

The Laurel Lake Association is always looking for volunteers to help with our events and to serve on the Board. See the list of Committee Chairpersons and Officers & Board members to contact if you want to volunteer. The canoe race always can use extra hands, as it takes a lot of folks to pull it off. We especially need boat spotters during the race to be there if rescues are needed and to guide the paddlers around the course. We can also use help with Lake Hosts at the boat landing; even a few hours a week is a help. And the more weed watchers there are, the smaller the area that needs to be checked by each watcher. You'll learn something new, maybe meet some new people and contribute to the quality of Laurel Lake. Help out! Some of us are getting older and we need the younger members to backfill. It takes all of us together to keep Laurel Lake as beautiful, clean and healthy as it is.



A RECORD BREAKING RACE

The Dresser-Friedman Regatta is held at one o'clock on the Saturday of Labor Day weekend. The event is open to anyone with a Sunfish, and the only requirement is that whoever wins has to host the award ceremony the following year. This year's race was held on Saturday, August 30th and included six boats. Conditions for the race were ideal. It was a beautiful, sunny day with ample wind, and lots of spectators. Motorboats and pontoon boats followed the Sunfish, cheering the sailors all along the course past Sunken Island and back to the finish line.

Commodore Rob Prunier set the buoys and described the course from its the starting point, which is near the Samuels' dock on the east side of the lake. Racers were: Bob Hadank, last year's winner, Patrick McNamara, David Prunier, members of the Ricci/Wyman families (Julie, Xander and Jasper), Bill Samuels, and Tom White. At the blast of the horn at precisely 1pm, the Sunfish bolted off, tacking to the west side of the lake with Tom White and Patrick McNamara decisively in the lead. A strong wind kept the bevy of boats relatively close together as they proceeded along the course. Following the racers from the Commodore's boat, I remarked that it had taken only ten minutes for them to get down to Sunken Island, a startlingly short period of time in comparison to previous years' races; last year's had taken 90 minutes.

At 1:20 Tom White crossed the finish line setting a record breaking pace, completing the race in twenty minutes flat! He was followed a minute later by Patrick McNamara at 1:21pm, and then at 1:22pm by last year's winner, Bob Hadank. David Prunier, who hadn't raced in at least 16 years, came in at 1:23pm for fourth place. He was followed a minute later by the Wyman/Ricci clan, and finally at 1:25pm by Bill Samuels. It was a remarkable, record-smashing race! Jay McNamara had set the previous record of 35 minutes in 2012.

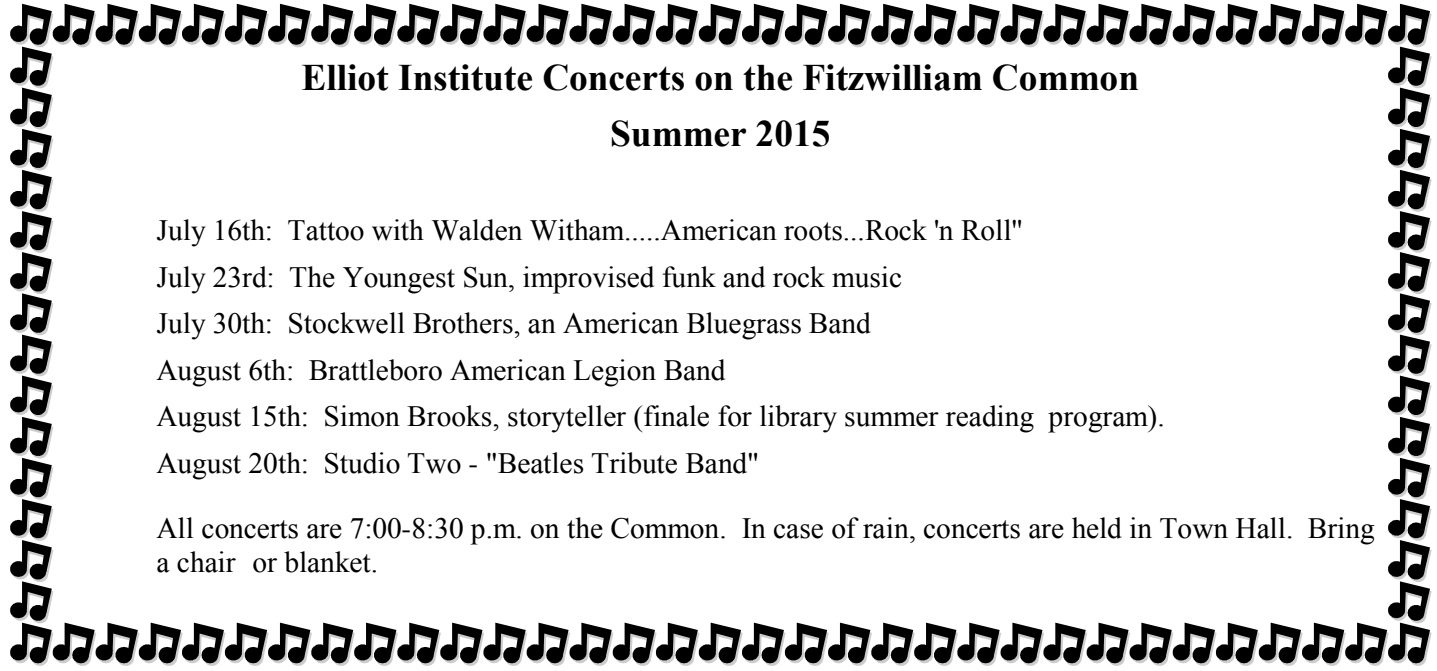
Later, at the awards celebration at Jackie Woodruff's home on Laurel Lake, an aura of excitement spread through the crowd of families, guests and participants. Everyone knew that something special had occurred, and all wanted to celebrate. Tom White reminded me that last year's write up had been entitled "Tack and Die." He told me, "This year you should call it 'Tack or Die' because staying in the center of the lake was just right. I watched Patrick tacking and went with him."

Rhiannan Prunier, David's wife watched the race with their year old son, Kai, from the Prunier's pontoon boat with the rest of their family. David told me that he had had a tough start, but after that it was smooth sailing. "I saw everyone cheering, and, seeing my little son there made me realize that I'm now a role model and he looks up to me."



Next year's race will be held on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2015 at 1pm. Rain date is Sunday, Sept. 6th. We encourage residents with Sunfish to join us for an afternoon of enjoyment. In fact, there was so much enthusiasm about the regatta that a number of racers have called for a "warm up competition" on Saturday, July 4, 2015 at one o'clock in the afternoon. No trophies will be awarded; the prizes will be an afternoon of fun sailing for all entries!

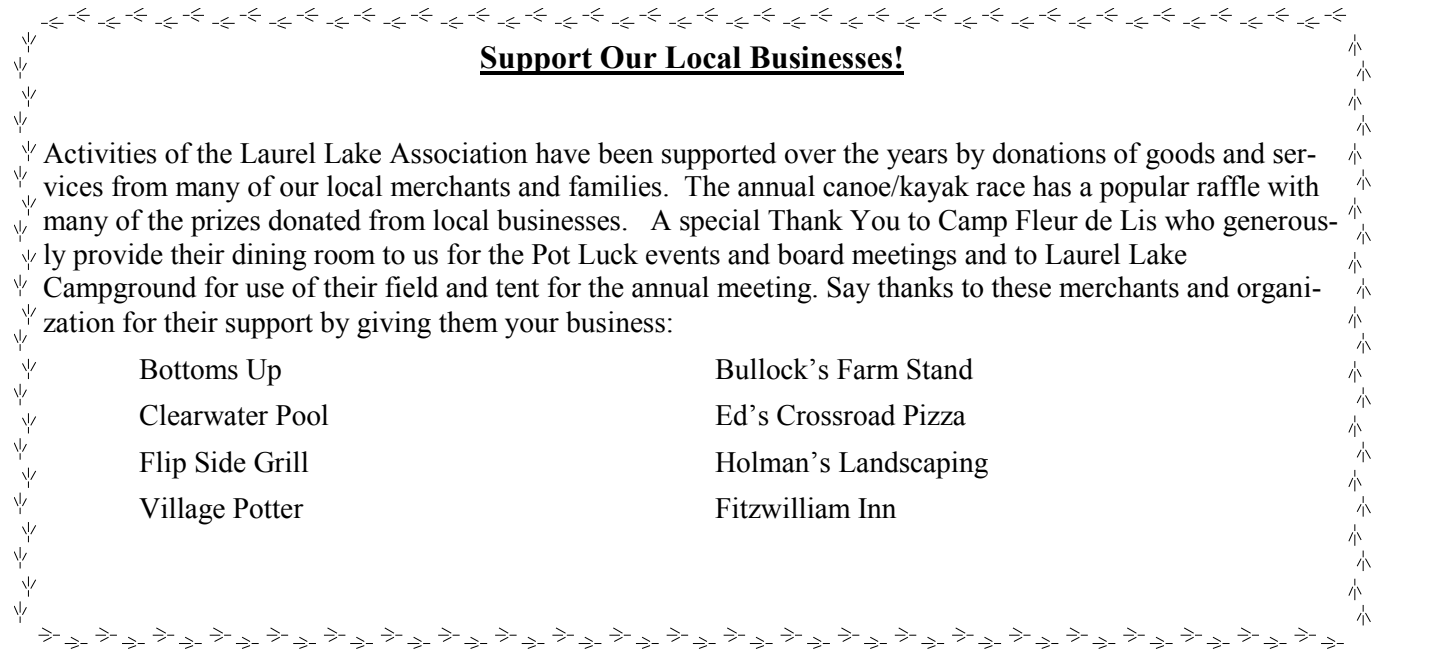
Submitted by **Beth Samuels**



Elliot Institute Concerts on the Fitzwilliam Common
Summer 2015

- July 16th: Tattoo with Walden Witham.....American roots...Rock 'n Roll"
- July 23rd: The Youngest Sun, improvised funk and rock music
- July 30th: Stockwell Brothers, an American Bluegrass Band
- August 6th: Brattleboro American Legion Band
- August 15th: Simon Brooks, storyteller (finale for library summer reading program).
- August 20th: Studio Two - "Beatles Tribute Band"

All concerts are 7:00-8:30 p.m. on the Common. In case of rain, concerts are held in Town Hall. Bring a chair or blanket.



Support Our Local Businesses!

Activities of the Laurel Lake Association have been supported over the years by donations of goods and services from many of our local merchants and families. The annual canoe/kayak race has a popular raffle with many of the prizes donated from local businesses. A special Thank You to Camp Fleur de Lis who generously provide their dining room to us for the Pot Luck events and board meetings and to Laurel Lake Campground for use of their field and tent for the annual meeting. Say thanks to these merchants and organization for their support by giving them your business:

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Bottoms Up | Bullock's Farm Stand |
| Clearwater Pool | Ed's Crossroad Pizza |
| Flip Side Grill | Holman's Landscaping |
| Village Potter | Fitzwilliam Inn |



2015 Laurel Lake Association Membership Form

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

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

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

Permanent Address			
Street _____			
City _____	State _____	Zip _____	
Telephone Number _____		E-Mail Address _____	

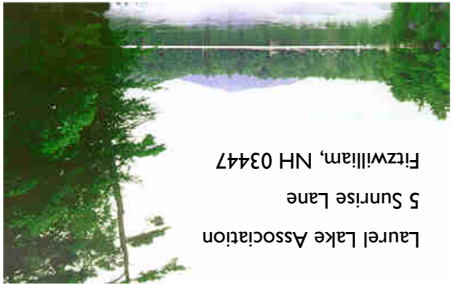
Summer Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Same as above
Street _____	
City _____	State _____ Zip _____
Telephone Number _____	

Ledger Delivery Preference	Select how you'd like to receive your Laurel Lake Ledger
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to continue receiving the Ledger via US Mail delivery
<input type="checkbox"/>	I would like to receive an electronic copy of the Ledger via Email at the Email address below.
Email Address _____	

All Applications and checks should be mailed to:

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

Thank you for your contribution
Visit us on the world wide web at <http://www.LaurelLakeAssn.com>



Laurel Lake Association
5 Sunrise Lane
Fitzwilliam, NH 03447