

NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER



P. R. P. Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 98, E. Wakefield, NH 03830

www.pineriverpond.org

“Dedicated to promoting the welfare
of Pine River Pond and its environs.”

President	Joe Carriere	603-522-2190 president@pineriverpond.org
Vice President	Patty Philbrook	603-944-5685 vicepresident@pineriverpond.org
Secretary	Phil Valenti	203-837-0607 secretary@pineriverpond.org
Treasurer	Howie Knight	603-522-3097 treasurer@pineriverpond.org

A complete list of officers and board members is available at <http://pineriverpond.org/about/board-members/>

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE: by Joe Carriere

Another great summer on PRP came to a close and while it was really great, it wasn’t without contradiction between expectation and reality. Spring brought the fear of a drought and probability of low water levels, but that was relieved by torrential rains. June observations at Ramalu Island gave us the impression that we wouldn’t be caring for a new loon chick, but we learned in the 11th hour that it was just a change of venue and we had a hatch just after July 4th. The Fall was supposed to bring a fast draw down, and that didn’t quite go as planned. I had intended to step down at the annual meeting, and the fact that I’m writing this article tells you how that turned out. However, this will be my ‘no kidding’ last hoorah as President. It’s been a great six years serving the community with the support of an amazing PRP staff, but I’m ready to get back to using the lake as a place to relax. It’s a great opportunity to be at the forefront of lake living, so step up and put your name in the running to fill the position!

I’d like to close with my expression of thanks to all the association members and PRP staff for the great learning experience and support. I wish you all a very happy Holiday Season and prosperous New Year.

ANNUAL MEETING: by Phil Valenti

Our annual meeting was held on a windy and sunny Saturday, July 7 at the Kolb residence on Olde Pine Road. Forty-eight members of the association were in attendance. A moment of silence was held for Mary Richards who had recently passed away. Mary had been a long-time resident of PRP and was very active in our association. Those in attendance approved last year’s annual meeting minutes and we proceeded to conduct our business. The big topic this year was the revision of our by-laws. Changes in the by-laws were needed to bring us up to the standards of the State and Federal laws that govern our 501 (c) (6) status. We then voted on our new slate of officers. The by-laws and election results can be found on our website. We also conducted other business such as paying bills and discussing lake matters - mainly centered on safety and erosion of the shoreline. At the end of the meeting the board presented past vice president and longtime board member John Creighton a gift for his dedicated service to the PRP community. We adjourned our meeting to enjoy the day on the lake and the fireworks later that evening. I’d like to wish all a very happy and safe winter season.

PRP WEBSITE UPDATE: by Joe Carriere

The Fall PRP Association Board Meeting identified several changes to the website that will enable us to keep the website more manageable within the volunteer base while simultaneously meeting member needs. The changes that are being considered for implementation will make the website more of an online magazine where members can go to find the latest happenings and issues related to the Pond. We will, also, continue to capitalize on the Facebook account to disseminate information as we move forward. All PRP Association Members are welcome to join the PRP Association Facebook Group.

SAFETY COMMITTEE: by Phil Valenti

A Safety Committee has been formed consisting of Phil Valenti, Guy Philbrook and Kelly Alexander. The committee will be the liaison to the local first responders and the marine patrol and provide safety information to the lake community. We ARE NOT the LAKE POLICE. If you see any bad or dangerous behavior on the lake you need to report it to the proper authorities. As many of you know, we had a serious fire at the end of the boating season. Many of our neighbors jumped into action to assist with manpower, equipment and boats. The Fire Department was very appreciative of our boater’s efforts in ferrying firefighters and equipment to Newton’s Island. We will be working with the Wakefield Fire Department to set up a response plan for the lake and a guideline of what to do when an emergency happens on the lake. We have created a

document containing lessons learned from the fire that will be posted on the website. For those wintering on the lake, dress warm, clean your chimney and don't venture onto the ice unless it is 6" thick! Even thicker ice if you're snowmobiling. Let's be safe out there.

WATER QUALITY: by Joe Carriere

The 2017 summary Water Quality Report hasn't come in yet, but I'm sure many of you noticed that this year's water quality wasn't typical. The flooding in the Spring brought significant leaching of iron/manganese into the pond, the lake held a deeper tint for most of the warmer months and some people reported a slightly 'swampy' smell. As always, we will engage with UNH to review and understand the report when it is produced and develop any needed action plans should this be anything other than an anomaly.

One area of concern the PRP Association Board is looking into is the rate of erosion around the lake. There has been significant shoreline erosion around the lake which has resulted in numerous trees toppling into the water. While erosion is a normal process, the rate seems to be accelerated and is causing concern. Potential causes of this accelerated rate are the increased size of marine craft and the larger wakes they generate and the larger wakes generated by wakeboarding and wake surfing. The Board is currently exploring the potential of seeking a lake-wide permit for shoreline owners to emplace wave arresting paving walls to stop erosion, diminish wave action and prevent reflection. If you are interested in participating in this endeavor please contact either Joe Carriere or Howie Knight.

NATIVE MILFOIL PROJECT: by Doug Stewart

As most of you are aware, a few years ago we identified areas of native milfoil growth in a few areas at the south end of the lake (the 2 bogs and close to the Bass Point boat ramp). While this is native, and is not nearly the threat of a non-native species, it has the potential to be a real nuisance for boating, swimming, etc. in those areas. (note: according the NH Department of Environmental Services it is native to New Hampshire but, as far as we know, not Pine River Pond).

Under the guidance of the organization that performs our yearly lake survey (Solitude Lake Management) we are conducting a State-approved test on a small plot near the Bass Point boat ramp to determine what mitigation methods might prove successful.

Back in July a number of benthic mats were placed near the boat ramp. These mats are designed to block sunlight to the weeds, and if successful will kill the plant. When the plants are killed regrowth is not expected.

A volunteer project was planned for November in the same area to remove any debris that has collected in the boat ramp area over the years. This debris is a natural fertilizer for this native milfoil. Removing it should slow

down the growth of the plant that was not covered by the benthic mats. Because of the slow water draw down this fall, this project has been postponed until Saturday, April 7, 2018. Contact me at dcstewart77@yahoo.com or 603-548-9350 if you are available to help with this project.

We are hopeful these two methods will reduce the growth and nuisance created by this plant. The benefit of our efforts won't truly be known until late July/early August of 2018. Depending on the success we are hopeful these methods can be used, where needed, in the two bogs as well.

THE PRP STORE: by Tom and Shelly Daniels

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and supported the store this past summer. We had a great year with new merchandise and some great late season sales.

Fall is upon us and that means the holiday season is right around the corner. With over 30 different items to choose from, the PRP store has just what you need for that someone special. Not quite sure what size? We have PRP Gift Certificates available. So, show off that PRP pride and pick up a new winter hat, fleece jacket or PRP car sticker. We have etched wine, beer, shot glasses, bistro mugs and more! We are fully stocked to fill your entire holiday gift giving needs.

The PRP Store will be open Sunday, December 3rd and Saturday December 16th from 12-2. If you know what you want, but can't make it to the store either of those day, call or email us and we'll arrange for you to be able to pick-up your order. We accept credit cards, checks and cash.

PRP MEMBER COUPONS: by Amy Burkam

The PRP Association partners with local businesses that provide discounts to PRP Association members. The discount coupons are on the PRP website, under "members." They are valid through next June, so be sure to use them this winter. Our current business partners are Lakes Region Septic; Lino's Restaurant; Poor People's Pub; R & B Property Services; and The Wakefield Inn. Also, Live Free and Fly Drone Services offers discounted aerial photography and video services. Go to www.livefreeandflynh.com/ and click "pricing" to learn about discounts for PRP Association members.

LOON UPDATE

With the deadly fight between two male loons in early May, and the unusually high-water level in the spring, we doubted that there would be a new loon chick this year. However, we did have a successful hatching in mid-July. Dave Lee immediately mobilized a Loon Watch Protection Program to help the chick survive during the very busiest boat traffic period on the lake by having a boat (identified with bright signs and flagging) shadow the chick closely. Dave received help from dozens of volunteers over the rest of the summer and by Labor Day Weekend the chick had matured to near the same size as its parents. Thanks to Dave and crew for all their efforts.



Photo of Loon chick courtesy of Erika Lundgren Lee (from PRP Association Facebook Group)

NEWTON’S ISLAND FIRE: by Lu Karatzas

The Karatzas family would like to thank the PRP community for all the concern, support, and efforts on behalf of our family before, during and after the fire on Newton’s Island on October 8th. We have heavy hearts in having lost the unique vertical log cabin built by Nick’s uncle and aunt, John Roy and Anne Newton, in the early 30’s, then passed on to our family in 1981. So many memories will live in our hearts as we grieve this significant loss. The pictures and videos posted on the PRP Facebook page help as we grieve this loss with all its memories. We are most grateful that no lives were lost and that no one was injured.

A special shout out to the Wakefield Fire Department and those of surrounding areas for their quick and most efficient response and also for the assistance of so many in PRP community in battling the fire. This coordination of efforts clearly saved the island which could easily have been leveled to the ground.

Thanks again to this very special and resourceful community.



Photo of Newton’s Island Fire courtesy of Phil Valenti

BOARD/COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION: by Patty Philbrook

The Board of Directors has established a structure to manage its activities that includes the following committees each of which have a lead and a Board of Directors liaison. The goal is to establish a concept of operation that keeps the Board sufficiently informed on Committee activities and clarifies oversight responsibilities.

Committee	Subsets	Lead	BOD Liaison
Erosion		Howie Knight	Joe Carriere
Fireworks		Doug Stewart	Joe Carriere
Water Testing/ Quality	Testing Quality	Dave Boisvert Joe Carriere	Joe Carriere
Loon Protection		Dave Lee	John Dailey
Boat Parade		Tracey Kolb	John Dailey
PRP Store		Tom & Shelly Daniels	Howie Knight
Member Services	Coupons Email Newsletter	Amy Burkam Vacant Bill Oatis	Patty Philbrook & John Myers
Invasive Species	Weed Watch	Cindy Pfeiffer	Doug Stewart
Lake Host		Tom Daniels	Doug Stewart
Membership		Tracey Hanlon	Phil Valenti & John Myers
Safety		Guy Philbrook	Phil Valenti

PASSAGES:

The following people passed away in recent months. We extend our sympathies to their families.

Joan Cordero, 80, of Pinewood Shores on February 6th.

Mary Richards, 94, longtime resident of Olde Pine Road and former Secretary of PRP Association on June 17th.

Pauline (Polly) Green, 67, of Windy Point Rd on September 27th.

Sally Murphy, 73 and **Al Cappi**, 77 husband and wife of Flynn Rd on November 5th and November 14th, respectively.

Bill Oatis, Editor

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!!

