



P. R. P. Association, Inc.

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

Associated Website: www.pineriverpond.org

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

President	Peter Congdon	522-3676
1 st Vice President	John Creighton	522-6428
Recording Sec'y	Rosemary Stewart	522-6870
Treasurer	Howie Knight	522-3097
Newsletter Editor	Bob Lundgren	522-8235

DECEMBER 2012 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

"Another year is drawing to close and offers opportunity for reflection on the wonderful times we have shared with family and friends these past months on Pine River Pond. I for one have also noted increased interest and involvement in our membership in issues related to preserving the beauty of our lake and the quality of our environment. As a resident on the Pond for over thirty years I am grateful and so appreciative of the efforts of the individuals who have contributed their time to our programs for monitoring water quality, exotic weed oversight, and a newly implemented program for identifying sources contributing to water pollution by storm water runoff. Oh, and not to forget the preservation of our annual fireworks display. I am grateful to those who stepped forward to fill the newly created Directors positions. They have made a significant change in our organization by increasing the executive committee from four to nine members. Their presence and insightful involvement has had a positive influence on decisions made by the committee related to Association business and activities."

Peter Congdon, President

RECAP OF THE SUMMER: Pretty nice summer all things considered. Early in the season we had a delay in the water level going to "full" since we had very little snow last winter which resulted in a smaller-than-normal runoff. This combined with the NH Dam Bureau being slow in inserting the boards led to a very low lake when it's normally full. Fortunately a 3-4" rainstorm in mid-May saved the summer which was pretty dry after that. The Dam Bureau people are supposed to consider runoff from snowmelt but they dropped the ball last spring.

ANNUAL MEETING: Held on Sat. July 14th in Mary Richard's and Goldsmith's back yard on Olde Pine Rd. Once again we thank them for this use. It was a nice day with 65-70 attending. Major topics covered were:

Our Officers have all agreed to serve again for the 2012-13 season. However the position of Corresponding Sec'y was eliminated. Our officers do a great and much appreciated job in upholding the mission: "Dedicated to promoting the welfare of Pine River Pond and its environs." The Assn. welcomes ideas, input and participation from all throughout the year – not just at meetings. Future leaders – don't be shy!

In addition to the officers listed in the header, we now have three additional directors...Jim Fitzpatrick, Joe Carriere, and Ron Canney.

Highlights of the meeting, gleaned from Rosemary Stewart's minutes, are as follows:

Cost of **Fireworks** was \$6,500. This was \$500. less than last year. Cost was reduced by new fireworks company.

The **PRP Store netted \$2,500.** Expenses for our **Lake Host Program** are shared by the town. \$1,000. was paid by the town and \$583.00 was paid by the PRP Association.

Jim Fitzpatrick discussed **run off at the ramp on Lord Road.** According to his source, 8.4 lbs of phosphorous enters the lake during each storm. It is estimated that 10.4 tons of phosphorous enters the lake at this point each year. Phosphorous is the main cause of nitrification, which increases plant growth. The U.N.H. Stormwater Center will develop a plan to reduce the sediment entering our lake. Using volunteers, the cost would be about \$3,000. for materials. Pete Congdon and Jim Fitzpatrick will meet with Jim Lange, President of the Pine River Association on Lord Road. We will ask for donations from all the PRP road associations because this project will benefit all. Treasurer Howie will check on the necessity of insurance. Donations for AWWA, the Lake Host Program and the PRP Lake Host Program will be brought up at the PRP Annual Meeting in July. **Tax Abatement Issue:** Private donations will fund the Tax Abatement Appeal. **Donations** of \$200 each were approved for the **Loon Preservation Committee** and the **NH Lakes Assn.**

Space does not permit greater detail of these issues so if you have concerns, please attend one of our meetings.

Bob Lundgren announced the winner of the **Jim McRobbie Memorial Ice-Out Contest.** **Jerry Hammond** won the \$100 prize by guessing the closest to ice-out. His guess was March 23 at 1:30 PM, two days after the actual day. Some attribute the early iceout to global warming however I think it had more to do with all the hot air generated by the presidential election!

MEMBERSHIP: We now have 317 paid memberships, down from 337 last year. However, it would be helpful to know who has moved onto the lake so we can offer to put them in the loop. Talk it up! The website www.pineriverpond.org has information and the application to join.

PRP CLOTHING:

We had an even better year sales-wise as people get more accustomed to the PRP store's location and hours. We thank Deb Dunn for once again managing the store with the assistance of her husband, Tim, Linda Orosky and my wife Carol. Please note that Carol can access the store off-season for Christmas shopping as long as it's not snowbound! To see if she's available, call 603-522-8235.

FIREWORKS SHOW July 14:

During the preparatory phase in the Spring we were distressed to learn that due to tighter State laws pertaining to professional fireworks, our best site was no longer eligible. Fortunately we learned that Atlas Fireworks had acquired a party boat and had modified it as a fireworks barge and our fireworks chairman, Doug Stewart with help from former fireworks chairman Pete Congdon struck a deal so the show could go on! We all breathed a sigh of relief.

It was decided to anchor the barge mid-lake off the Lord Road boat ramp. That night, many boats gathered well back on either side of the barge. It's always a beautiful sight to see all the boats with their red, green and white lights waiting for the show. At the appointed time the show started and it was spectacular. We look forward to a repeat of this next year and hope for your generous support since this is a self-funded show.

WEED WATCH:

Due to lack of participation in the past we again did not have an official Weed Watch day. In lieu of this, based on a suggestion originally offered by Pam Knight and formalized this year by Jim Fitzpatrick, we now have a program to make this work even better. It was suggested that the many kayakers or anyone that plies PRP waters be observant and report any unusual weed growth. If you take a sample, put it in a plastic bag with water and contact one of the officers for proper procedure to have it evaluated.

LAKE HOST PROGRAM:

Managed by **Jim Fitzpatrick**. Jim was the prime mover on this effort to screen as many boats and trailers as possible as they are launched.

It is PRP's good fortune that most water entering the pond is from springs and water sheds but NOT from other contaminated ponds and lakes. However we are surrounded by milfoil-contaminated bodies of water, i.e. Winnepesaukee, Balch, Belleau, Ossipee, Crescent, Wentworth,, Sunrise, Melendy, Potanipo, Mountain and Pickerel. All it takes is a plant fragment hitching a ride on a boat, trailer, fishing gear or bait bucket to take hold in our pond so we cannot be too careful about this.

We are always juggling and expanding our schedule to include the busiest boat-in and boat-out days. We have learned that these normally include one and two weeks before Memorial Day and after Labor Day. Many boats are put in or taken out by busy boat yards that are using boat yard trailers that may have come from contaminated waters. Because many of our Hosts are still in college we desperately need volunteers. We are also looking for Hosts for the 2013 season. This is a great opportunity for the next stewards of the lake to learn about its health and well being while making a few bucks. Pay is \$10/hr and min. age is 18. Let's all help to keep our lake weed free and maintain our property values! An ounce of prevention is worth a whole boat load of cure! For more information, Lake Host sign up and volunteering, call Jim Fitzpatrick at (603) 522 8404".

WATER QUALITY:

Simply put, the water quality of Pine River Pond continues to be very good. Based on a report from Robert Craycraft from the UNH Coop Extension, the water quality in PRP is good though clarity has diminished ever so slightly over the years. This could be due to more aquatic growth (as well as increased boat traffic

- my opinion). In terms of a lake's life, we're in the mid-range. (*Mesotrophic* I believe) He emphasized that the presence of phosphorus greatly increases the likelihood of algae blooms and reduced clarity. Phosphorus increases due to runoff as well as the use of lawn fertilizer.

PARTY BOAT PARADE:

There was no formal boat parade this year since we learned that a boat parade requires a permit (sigh) from the Marine Patrol! Since the boat parade was always informal and not sponsored by the PRP Assn, it was not clear who would have to pull a permit.

WINTER SPORTS: Here's my annual pitch for the Seven Lakes Snowmobile Club. A core of dedicated area snowmobilers work hard to get permission for, maintain and groom over 50 miles of trails in Greater Wakefield. With construction and road development in the area it's getting harder to keep trails open, so we appreciate the cooperation of the many landowners who permit this use. The trails are also used by walkers and cross country skiers, so it's important to use caution and common sense when traveling the trails. To learn more about the Seven Lakes Snowmobile Club, please see their NEW website: www.sevenlakessnowmobileclub.com.

LAKE E-MAIL "TREE": Contact administrator Dave Lee Sr. and he will broadcast important lake-related information to our on-line group. Dave does *not* compose or edit messages so you should e-mail it to him so he can forward it. In the "for sale" category, please keep it to lake-related items. Dave also keeps us in the loop about town government via e-mail. In order to get onto the group e-mail list, simply e-mail him at prpassociation@roadrunner.com. We thank Dave for his dedication.

LAKE DRAWDOWN INFO: Lake drawdown always begins on or just after Columbus Day. It was a SLOW drawdown year with the level declining to about 6' down by late Thanksgiving. The schedule, rate of drawdown and timing of reinsertion of boards is controlled by the Dam Bureau.

2012 GOLF TOURNAMENT:

We thank Don Cormier for once again organizing a successful golf tournament accompanied by great weather.

There were 40 golfers, it was a beautiful day.

Here are the results of the July 6th golf tournament:

"A" Flight Winners: Don Cormier, Keith Cormier, Ken Jeffery, Art Grant

"B" Flight Winners: Howie Knight, Tim Beaver, Dave Beaver, Paul Beaver

"C" Flight Winners: Bill Oatis, Frank Sullivan, Dave Oatis, Ken Bourinot

Long Drive Hole #2: Men: Don Cormier Women: Jen Berube, Long Drive Hole

#6: Men: Fran Small Women: Deb Collamore

Long Drive Hole #15: Men: Tim Beaver Women: Jen Berube

Closest to the Pin Hole #5: Men: Dave Mills Women: Jen Berube

Closest to the Pin Hole #11: Men: Dave Beaver Women: Thelma Bold Closest to

the Pin Hole #14: Men: Keith Cormier Women: Jen Berube Putting Contest:

Dave Mills

John Sanzi, Fran Small, Pat Small, There were eight skins won in the "A" Flight, twelve won in "B" Flight and seven won in the "C" Flight.

2013 ICE OUT CONTEST: The response was initially very poor for the 2012 ice-out contest but an e-mail reminder in mid-January generated many more entries. The entry process has never been easier and I'll try again. Winner gets \$100!!

1) There's no formal application form again this year.

- 2) Simply e-mail me your best guess by including your name, address, phone #, as well as the ice-out month, date and time in on the hr or ½ hr.
- 3) For those of you without e-mail, simply mail me a note with the same information.
- 4) My e-mail is robertlundgren1@roadrunner.com and mail is 94 Grenier Rd, Sanbornville, NH 03872
- 5) Ice out will be defined by the point when the lake is *essentially* free of ice. My call! The winner will be the closest guess either before or after the announced time. As respects this contest the ice never goes out after dark! If there's a tie, the pot is split.
- 6) The guesses must be received no later than January 31. They will be filed and not looked at until after the ice out time is announced. Winner's name is announced at the annual meeting. **WHY NOT ENTER NOW?**

LOON REPORT: No chicks this year either, though the loons did nest on Long Island to no avail. Two years ago brush was cleared from the "original" loon island nesting site to provide easier access and freedom from wakes. This is a small island on the East side of the lake in the vicinity of the ends of Lord Rd and Virginia Lane. Unfortunately the loons passed this up in favor of an inferior site. Maybe the "no trespassing" sign on the original island scared them off. The preferred island even has a sign indicating that it's a nesting site for loons...sigh...can't they read?

PROPERTY TAX BLUES: If you own shorefront property you were likely shocked to see a whopping increase in your land assessment. (perhaps 15%) on last year's December bill. Research by volunteers on PRP showed flaws in the assessors' methodology. Based on that, about 160 PRP shorefront landowners filed an abatement request. All these properties were re-inspected, resulting in some changes in building values (mostly higher) but shorefront assessment remained the same EXCEPT reductions for those who had more extensive shorefront due to being on a peninsula. In addition a new category of "CAMP" was established for those a small (.3 acres or less) and being on piers with exposed plumbing. However, since little changed we proceeded further. A report from Rosemary Stewart follows:

" PRP Association Notification - Appeal Update

A quick holiday update regarding our appeal...

We have retained Attorney Margaret Nelson of Sulloway & Hollis, Concord, NH to represent us in the Superior Court Appeal. We have also retained Russell Thibeault of Applied Economic Research as our expert witness. Before our day in court or before BTLA Hearings, mediation is required. The town's attorney, Rick Sager, has asked to join both the Superior Court Petition and the BTLA Appeal for mediation. We are reviewing this option.

If this is agreeable to all parties, this may occur in March of 2013.

If you have donated to this effort, thank you! Our work would not be possible without your support.

If you have not donated and would like to, we would appreciate your donation. You may make a check payable to Rosemary Stewart and send to: Rosemary Stewart, P. O. Box 332

East Wakefield, NH 03830

As always, if you have any questions or would like more detail contact her at (603)522-6870 or email:

rstewart199@hotmail.com

Passages:

Pam Knight, wife of our Treasurer Howie Knight, passed away in July after a brief illness. We extend our deep sympathy to Howie, son Kyle and the family.

Bob Lundgren, Newsletter Editor

P.S. Don't forget to check out our website:

www.pineriverpond.org. Thanks to Dave Lee Jr. for maintaining the site. Updated photos of lake life in all seasons are most welcome.