

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

each year. The PLPA Board and our strategic partners have been working on many important projects to assure that Pleasant Lake and its watershed will continue to support the many recreational activities, wildlife, and serenity that we all enjoy.

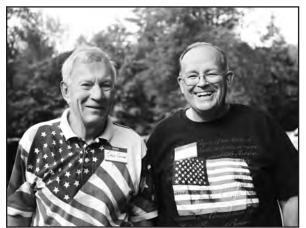
from exotic invasive species. Through partnering with the NH Lakes Association and the Town of New London, the Lake Host program at the boat launch is an effective tool to identify and remove "hitchhiking" invasive species before they enter the lake. This summer our Lake Hosts will play an important role in educating boaters about the recently enacted the "Clean, Drain and Dry" bill that requires all boaters to remove any plant and animal specimens

from their boats before trailering from the lake. We also support voluntary Weed Watchers who monthly inspect the entire shoreline of the lake looking for exotic weeds and animals. Fortunately, to date we have found no evidence of any exotic species in the lake. Our best weapon is early detection and these programs are very effective tools.

Regular water testing reflects a very high standard of water quality at Pleasant Lake. We participate in the NH Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assistant Program (VLAP) to monitor our water quality through monthly sampling and testing. There are many factors that impact water quality. Some of the factors we can't control, such as the weather's impact on water flow through the lake and acid rain. Other factors, such as the introduction of too many nutrients into the Lake or land use changes within the lake's watershed, can be influenced through our efforts. This past winter we closely monitored the Town's adoption of new zoning regulations pertaining

Welcome to another summer at Pleasant Lake. Not to accessory dwelling units (ADU). Our concern was that surprisingly, caring for our lake doesn't stop at Labor Day the new ADU provisions could lead to higher housing density within the watershed which could have a negative impact on water quality due to increased water runoff and pollutants entering the lake. We believe the final proposal will minimize that likelihood.

You may recall that dam malfunctions caused dramatic drops The best news is that Pleasant Lake continues to be free in the lake's water level last summer. Through a cooperative



effort between the PLPA and the Town, a monitoring alarm system has been approved for installation this summer. This early warning system should result in a prompt response to correct dam malfunctions and prevent unnecessary water outflow from the lake.

Over this past winter we have updated our website to be a better resource for events, news, education and other relevant lake information. Check it out at www.PLPA.net.

As you can see, good steward-

ship of the lake involves many organizations and individuals. We are fortunate to have the advocacy support of NH Lakes, the technical and scientific support of NH DES, a good relationship with the Town of New London, an active Board of Directors, the financial support of our membership and many willing volunteers.

The PLPA board is pleased to welcome to the board Scott Reed, owner of the Inn at Pleasant Lake and extends thanks to directors John Ryan, Judy Oates, Will Kidder, Jen Esten, Steve Allenby, John Wilson, Kittie Wilson, Peter Winship and Sally Winship for their willingness to serve another two year term.

Remember to mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting and fireworks on July 1 and the Family Run for the Lake event on July 2. I look forward to seeing you around the lake this summer.

Peter Winship

# THE LAKE HOST PROGRAM

The Pleasant Lake Lake Host Program had a very successful 2016 Season! Our four Lake Hosts inspected 1,771 boats between Memorial Day and Labor Day, working a total of 1,013 hours!!!

The Lake Hosts collected six aquatic plant specimens from the inspected boats. These specimens were sent to the NH State Lab for testing and all were found to be non-invasive species. We are so fortunate to have Lake Hosts inspecting boats and educating boaters in order to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species, both plant and animal.

This year we will have four returning Lake Hosts. Don Sheffield, Sylvia Brewster, Cathy Todd and Ron Towle will attend a state training session in early May. They will begin work Memorial Day Weekend. Please stop by the boat ramp to say hello to them and to thank them for their service. If you have any questions or concerns about the Lake Hosts or the Lake Host Program, don't hesitate to call me at 603-848-9464.

Sally H. Winship

### PLPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS www.plpa.net

President: Peter Winship	848-6700
Vice President: John Wilson	526-4069
Treasurer: Tom Stark	525-6741
Secretary: Kittie Wilson	526-4069
Steve Allenby	877-0043
Storm Connors	526-6024
Jen Esten	526-2589
Marilyn Kidder	526-4250
Will Kidder	526-4531
Judy Oates	526-2173
Scott Reed	860-990-5391
John Ryan	526-4813
Sally Winship	848-9464
Oge Young	526-2430

Honorary Board Member: Dick Clayton

# Pleasant Lake Fireworks Good Neighbor Policy

There are about a hundred and ten homes that surround beautiful Pleasant Lake. Every person in every home loves and treasures this special place. We are a lake community. We are all neighbors, and friends, and a family of sorts...the family of Pleasant Lake. We all know that being on or near the water is good for us. Science backs that up, but we are fortunate to really know the peace, the tranquility, and the wellness that come from living here.

Over the past few years there has been a noticeable increase in fireworks and the size of fireworks displays on the lake. Pleasant Lake is at the base of a natural bowl and loud sound reverberates around the entire lake. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration remains a popular fireworks evening, but fireworks on any given night and late into the evening throughout the summer has become a very unpleasant event for many in our lake community. Restful vacation weeks become stressful. Adults and children with early bedtimes have no chance of sleeping. Many domestic pets are negatively affected. Neighbors worry about the fire hazard. At least one veteran no longer feels comfortable coming to the lake, since fireworks wake him at night and cause him enormous stress. The loon family and other wildlife tolerate the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, but every fireworks night is a stressful night for them. The peace, tranquility and wellness of the lake disappear.

We would encourage everyone in this precious lake community to stop and think about what happens to the entire community when the decision is made to set off fireworks. Yes, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is an appropriate night. If you feel strongly that other nights are appropriate, please consider no fireworks after 10:00 PM. Please think about the unintended consequences of using fireworks and be a good neighbor. Please help to preserve and protect the treasure that is Pleasant Lake.



The Pleasant Lake Protective Association Board of Directors

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# Pleasant Lake Water Quality – 2016

Dick Kellom has retired after many years of heading up our Water Quality Testing. Dick's knowledge of chemistry, his love for the lake, his attention to detail and his feel for the lake are already sorely missed. The team replacing him is made up of Peter Winship, John Wilson, Steve Allenby and Bruce Johnson.

Last summer the lake was tested the same four times as in the past. All readings at all stations were well within State norms with most being on the lower side of normal. Of particular interest was the Secchi Disc or water clarity reading which was 9+ meters or 29.5 feet, the best clarity we have ever recorded by over three feet. Lack of rain that would bring debris into the lake could account for much of this.

Overall, Pleasant Lake continues to be a very healthy lake and we are very fortunate that it is. It will be interesting how a later ice out and significant spring rains will affect any of these readings. Also, this is the summer that the DES representative makes a visit to the lake to take additional samples to further monitor the lake's health.

A significant reason for the continued good test results is because of the care given to the lake by its residents. Thank you.

John Wilson

### WEED WATCHERS

A group of dedicated volunteers patrol the lakeshore each month, in search of any sign of exotic-invasive weeds. They participate in training sessions and put in hours of time on and in the water. We are most thankful for all that they do to protect Pleasant Lake. Weed Watcher Captain: John Wilson 526-4069 Weed Watchers: Doug Baxter, JC Nichols, Lynn Annicharico, Paul and Linda Messer, Dick Kellom, Kittie Wilson, Debbie Perkins, Bruce Avery, George Jamieson, Bruce Johnson, Sally Winship, Judy Oates, Tom and Sandy Stark, Bruce and John Williamson, Jeff Hollinger, Oge Young, Jerry and Janie Barnes, Bob Kirchberger, Dee and Storm Connors.

~ THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!



The Pleasant Lake Water Testing Team! L to R: John Wilson, Peter Winship and Bruce Johnson. Steve Allenby and Oge Young (missing from photo)

# PLEASANT LAKE DAM

This summer there will be two very important changes made to the Pleasant Lake Dam. The first will be the installation of a state-of-the-art monitoring/alarm system at the gate house. This system will be able to monitor the present lake depth,

the lake depth the gate is set for, the amount the gate is open and whether there is power to the dam gate (there will be battery backup for this equipment). The data will be transmitted to a website accessible by all. Errant operation of the gate will generate an alarm with the appropriate Town employees who will then be able to correct matters in a very timely fashion. Canary Systems, a company from here in town, has designed and will installed the system at a very considerate cost to the Town.

The second change will be the armoring



of the dam. In response to requirements by the State Dam Bureau, modifications must be made to the dam. The top of the dam will be protected or armored to prevent erosion and a possible breach of the dam if it is ever over run by an extreme storm event. The appearance of the dam upon completion of this project will not be significantly different. This work is expected to begin in July, after the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and will not require any change in the lake level.

John Wilson

# The Loons of Pleasant Lake 2016 Season

#### HAPPY TENTH ANNIVERSARY TO MOTHER AND FATHER LOON!

For the tenth year in a row the Pleasant Lake loon pair returned to the lake to mate and nest. This is a remarkable achievement in the world of loons! These two loons are banded loons so that we know for sure that these are the same two loons returning year after year.



The first nesting attempt from the raft in Turtle Cove failed, but the second attempt produced one chick. The Wilson Family had the honor of naming the loon chick this year and named her "Precious". "Precious" was banded at seven weeks old, so we will hope to identify her in the future. "Precious" had a very successful summer. Father Loon left the lake for his ocean home in November. Mother Loon and "Precious" left in mid-December.





This year was filled with challenges, including a male loon intent on taking over this territory, a young eagle who took pleasure in harassing the loons, and an especially horrid black fly season!



Thank you for your commitment to preserve and protect the Loons of Pleasant Lake. Please subscribe to "All Things Pleasant on the Lake" by visiting www.plpa.net or writing lanesend2@tds.net .You will receive a nature photo journal each Friday morning updating you on the loons and other natural events on the lake. And please remember to always use lead free sinkers and jigs when fishing. The smallest piece of lead will kill a loon. Please spread the word. Together we can make a difference!

Photos in this newsletter taken by Kittie Wilson. Printing and distribution by Echo Communications, Inc.

# Fish Lead Free!

Effective June 1, 2016, the sale and freshwater use of lead fishing sinkers and lead jigs weighing one ounce or less is banned in New Hampshire. Senate Bill 89 was originally signed by Governor Hassan in 2013, but there was a three year phase-in period to allow retailers and anglers to switch to non-lead tackle. Please visit www.loon.org, the website of The Loon Preservation Committee, to learn more about the Fish Lead Free program.





# The PLPA Store Goes Online!

The PLPA Store now offers its merchandise online! With the PLPA Online Store you can order a greater variety of merchandise, colors and sizes from the convenience from your home and get it shipped to anywhere you choose. The PLPA Online Store will be available at www.PLPA.net when the new website is introduced in July.

Need it right away? Come to the PLPA Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 1<sup>\*</sup> and SHOP 'TIL YOU DROP or visit the store at 501 Lakeshore Drive to see our complete inventory. The PLPA Store is open and stocked with all your PLPA logo items! Shop for T-shirts, hats, windbreakers, sweatshirts, golf shirts, youth hoodies, coffee mugs and much more Please call ahead 603-848-6700. Shipping is available on pre-paid orders. All major credit cards are accepted.

Peter and Sally Winship, Managers

# The Tortoise

The Tortoise, the 1902 electric Elco wooden boat that lives on Pleasant Lake and leads the Boat Parade each year, has been undergoing an extensive rehabilitation program since it came out of the water last fall.

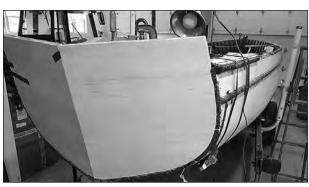




The rehab has included new decking, steering, improvements to the mechanicals, and a great deal of hull work. In addition, The Tortoise will have a new set of batteries. Peter and Dee Sulick, new residents of Pleasant Lake, were so kind to have allowed their heated garage to become a Tortoise Workshop over the winter. We thank them so much. We also thank

Scott and Jennifer Reed, owners of The Inn at Pleasant Lake, for use of their barn this spring in order to finish up the project.

Countless hours of volunteer craftsmanship have gone into The Tortoise rehabilitation program. We thank Bo Muller of Muller Boatworks for his most helpful advice along the way. The work has been carried out by Bruce Johnson, John Wilson, Harvey Best, David Harris and Bob DeAngelis. We thank them



so much for b r i n g i n g this 115 year old boat back to life once more!



The Tortoise is owned by The Tortoise Club, LLC. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact Bruce Johnson (526-4506) or John Wilson (526-4069).

# **SAFE BOATING AND FISHING RULES**

We hope you enjoy your day boating here on Pleasant Lake! For your safety and enjoyment as well as that of others, please follow these important boating and fishing rules:

#### NO WAKE ZONES

When you are within 150 feet of any shore, other boats, skiers, swimmers, floats, or marked swimming areas, State law mandates that you must slow down to NO WAKE speed. NO WAKE means no faster then 6 mph.

150 feet is equal to the length of two ski ropes.

#### **TOWING SKIERS**

All skiers must wear life jackets. A maximum of two people may be towed at any time. An observer 13 years or older is required. **No skiing is allowed before sunrise and after sunset. Always keep your boat and skier 150 feet or more away from** <u>EVERYTHING</u> including the shore, the island, other boats, skiers, swimmers, floats, and marked swimming areas. Do not drop a skier within 150 feet of the shore.



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#### **ON-BOARD SAFETY**

It is illegal and dangerous to sit on the edge of the cockpit, bow or transom.

There must be at least one appropriately-sized life jacket for every person onboard. This includes paddle boarders and kayaks. By law, children 12 or under must wear a life jacket at all times. On a power boat, it is recommended that you always attach a lanyard properly between the ignition switch and the operator.

#### **BOATING CERTIFICATION**

New Hampshire law requires that all persons who operate a powerboat with a motor greater than 25 horsepower must have a New Hampshire Safe Boater Education Certificate and that certificate must be carried on board. Out-of-state boaters must have completed a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved course and carry that certificate on board.

Call 1-888-254-2125 or go to www.boat-ed.com/nh/ for more information.

#### WILDLIFE, LOONS

Pleasant Lake is home to many water birds, including nesting loons. The loon is a protected species and harassment is a punishable offense. Loon chicks are very small and cannot dive or fly to escape an oncoming boat, kayak or canoe. **Please keep well away from all water birds, especially loons and their chicks.** 

#### **FISHING**

Children under the age of 16 may fish without a license.

The use of lead sinkers and jigs is strictly prohibited. Ingestion will kill a loon! Only smelt can be used as live bait in Pleasant Lake.

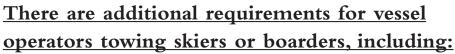
Be sure to follow all the Fishing Rules published in the New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest. Ask the Lake Host how to become involved in the Pleasant Lake Lead Free Rock Bass Marathon.

Copies of <u>A Boater's Guide to NH Boating Law</u> and <u>The New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest</u> are available at Clarke's Ace Hardware in New London.

# THE "150 FEET LAW"

# New Hampshire Law 270-D:2 Section VI

All vessels shall maintain **headway speed** (only 6mph and No Wake) **when within 150 feet** (the length of two ski ropes) from: the shore, the island, other boats, docks, rafts, swimmers, permitted swimming areas.

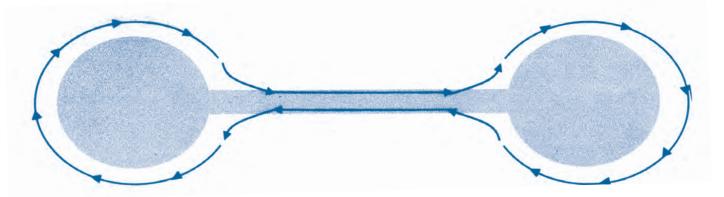




- In addition to the operator, another person must be present in the boat when towing a skier or boarder.
- The additional person must be 13 years old or older and capable of assisting the person being towed.
- No more than 2 persons may be towed and that requires two additional observers.
- No towing after sunset and before sunrise.
- When returning to the shore with a skier, the towing vessel and the skier must remain at least 150 feet from the shore.

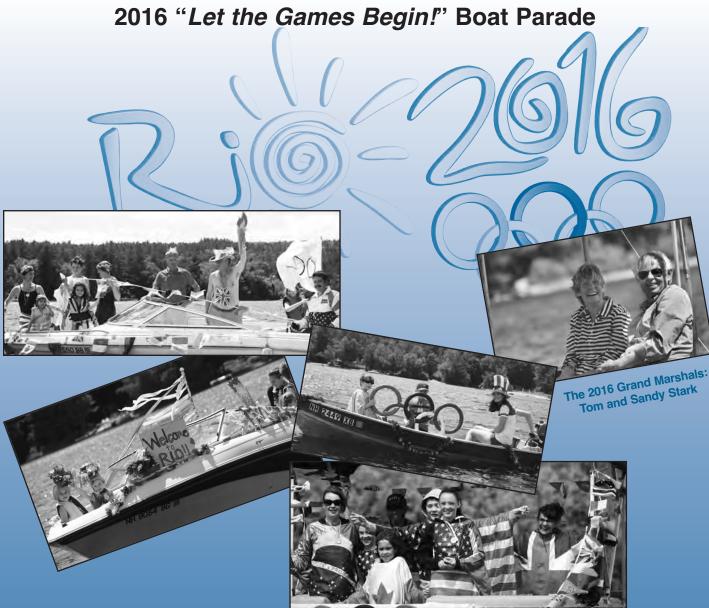
# Ski down the middle of the lake and Use "Best Practice" Towing

Long, straight runs, with barbell turns help keep the wake moving away from the skier.



# IF YOU SEE A VIOLATION, PLEASE REPORT IT!

- Obtain the bow number of the boat.
- Call Marine Patrol at 293-2037. They appreciate our help!



2017 Theme: Once Upon a Time...

# THE PLEASANT LAKE BOAT PARADE Saturday July 1<sup>st</sup> at 3:00

What is your family's favorite fairy tale?

Boats will overflow with magic and enchantment as fantasy characters come to life! Elves, Fairies, Mermaids, Witches, Dragons...,and so much more! (Please be sure to observe all Boating Safety Regulations)

### 2:30 Gathering of the Boats

We will gather off Slope 'N Shore, take pictures and admire all the clever ideas! 3:00 Parade

The horn will sound and we will follow the Grand Marshals, Stu and Pat Curtis.

We travel counter-clockwise this year, so your starboard side will be facing the shore. Come Join the Enchantment!

### PLEASANT LAKE LEAD FREE ROCK BASS MARATHON June 16 TO AUGUST 19, 2017 **KIDS WIN FABULOUS PRIZES!** OUR GOAL DISTINCT REDDISH EYE A LARGE ROCK BASS IS lock Bass ABOUT 12" 2500 DO NOT CONFUSE WITH SUNFISH WHICH HAVE RAINBOW 2000 COLORATION. BLACK SPOT ON GILL BLACK SPOT ON EACH SCALE 1500 ALL ANGLERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CATCH AND REMOVE ROCK BASS FROM PLEASANT LAKE. 1000 ROCK BASS ARE STILL A PROBLEM IN PLEASANT LAKE, THREATENING THE SURVIVAL OF ALL DESIRABLE GAME FISH (SALMON, TROUT AND SMALLMOUTH BASS) BY EATING THEIR EGGS, CRAWFISH AND OTHER NATURAL GAMEFISH FOOD. THEY ARE DESTRUCTIVE EATING MACHINES AND WE WANT TO DECREASE THEIR NUMBERS. 500 CAUGHT ROCK BASS CAN BE DEPOSITED IN THE COLLECTION BUCKET AT THE ELKINS BOAT LANDING. MARATHON PARTICIPANTS, YOUNG FISHERPERSONS (UNDER SIXTEEN – NO FISHING LICENSE REQUIRED), FILL OUT AN ENTRY FORM FOR EACH DEPOSIT MADE TO HAVE YOUR NAME POSTED ON THE LEADER BOARD.

## PRIZE AWARDS SATURDAY AT 12:00 NOON, AUG. 19, 2017!

DROP A HOOKED WORM IN A HOLE BETWEEN THE ROCKS NEAR SHORE -THAT'S WHERE THE ROCK BASS LIVE. AND PLEASE NO LEAD SINKERS! LEAD CAN BE FATAL TO LOONS AND IT'S AGAINST THE LAW!

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ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE MARATHON, AUGUST 19, 2017, THERE WILL BE A GALA AWARDS CEREMONY AT ELKINS DAM! ALL FISH CAUGHT THAT DAY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, MUST BE TURNED IN BY 12 NOON TO BE ADDED TO THE OTHERS RECORDED DURING THE SUMMER. VALUABLE GIFT CARDS AND BEAUTIFUL TROPHIES WILL THEN BE AWARDED FOR THE FIRST AND SECOND MOST FISH CAUGHT AND FOR THE LARGEST DURING THE MARATHON. FISHING IS A GREAT ACTIVITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AND CONSIDERED BY NEW HAMPSHIRE FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT TO BE A WHOLESOME OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE -ESPECIALLY WHEN ENCOURAGED BY ENTHUSIASTIC PARENTS.

Gift cards of increasing value will be awarded to all entrants in each category.

CATEGORY	QTY OF FISH ENTERED
R	10 to 24
0	25 to 49
С	50 to 99
К	100 to 149
В	150 to 199
Α	200 to 299
S	300 to 399
S*	400 to 499
S**	500+

# WHAT'S IN YOUR TACKLE BOX?

"No idea! We only use Grandpa's tackle box when we vacation on the lake." Grandpa's Tackle Box is full of toxic lead! Please dispose of the lead tackle properly.

"I don't know if my sinkers and jigs are lead or not." Then they are probably toxic lead. Unpainted lead will actually write on paper. Please dispose of all of your lead tackle properly.

"I only purchase lead-free tackle. I find that tungsten jigs and sinkers are superior for bass fishing. I certainly don't want my children handling lead." Congratulations! We all need to make the switch to lead-free tackle. Ask for lead-free at your tackle shop. DON'T LET THIS LOON'S MEAL BE HER LAST! The smallest piece of lead will kill a loon. When you lose a sinker or jig in the lake, loons may pick it up as they forage for pebbles to aid in digestion, or when feeding on a fish that is attached to lead tackle. That loon will die of lead poisoning in a matter of weeks. Death by lead fishing tackle accounts for nearly half of all documented adult loon deaths in New Hampshire. These deaths are completely preventable! Please <u>obey the law</u> and use only lead free fishing tackle! Thank you for helping to keep the beautiful call of the loon echoing over New Hampshire waters! For more information please visit www.loon.org



Courtesy of The Pleasant Lake Protective Association

# ELKINS FISH & GAME CLUB 5<sup>TH</sup> Annual Lake-A-Thon SUNDAY JULY 2<sup>ND</sup> PLEASANT LAKE DAM

Come enjoy this educational and fun event! Lectures, a fishing derby, and wildlife exhibits will

be featured. The highlight is the Cardboard Boat Regatta, as contestants build and race their boats around a course. The boats begin to gather at 9:00 AM and the race begins at 11:00 AM. In addition to the race, NH Fish & Game Fisheries Biologist Benjamin Nugent will have a display and handouts about watershed conservation and will bring aquatic macroinvertebrates that people can see. Please visit the Elkins Fish & Game Club website: www.elkinsfishandgame.net for all the details.



### PLEASE JOIN THE PLEASANT LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

\$40.00	Membership Fee	Name:	
\$	Protection Programs	Address:	
\$	Fireworks		
\$	Where Needed	Town, State, Zip:	
\$	Total	E-Mail Address:	
		Note: Contributions to the PLPA are fully tax-deductable PLPA is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization.	
	I would like to learn more about becoming a volunteer in (check all that apply)		
	Membership and Communications Exotic-Invasive Weed Prevention Activities Wildlife Conservation		Watershed Conservation
			Water Quality
			Fish Conservation
			Boating Safety
	My phone number	er:	

MAIL BY JULY 1 TO:

### PLEASANT LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION P.O. BOX 1584, NEW LONDON, NH 03257

Many Thanks!!





# Lost and Found

If you have lost something from your beach or waterfront, or if something unexpected comes ashore, please call 526-4069 or e-mail lanesend2@tds.net and we will try to help!

PLEASANT LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 1584 New London, New Hampshire 03257

PRESERVE AND PROTECT PLEASANT LAKE

### **CELEBRATE PLEASANT LAKE THIS SUMMER!**

#### July 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday

- 8:30 AM Coffee, Juice, Pastries
- 9:00 AM <u>PLPA Annual Meeting</u> Slope 'N Shore Boathouse
- 2:30 PM Gathering of the Boats off Slope 'N Shore Beach
- 3:00 PM <u>Boat Parade</u> Theme: "ONCE UPON A TIME..." The Parade will go counter-clockwise this year.
- 9:00 PM Cannon Fired! Light the Flares!
- 9:30 PM Fireworks!!!

Followed by Illumination of the Colors and Taps

#### July 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday

9:00 AM 5<sup>th</sup> Lake-A-Thon, Elkins Fish & Game Club Pleasant Lake Dam

#### August 19th Saturday

NOON <u>Pleasant Lake Lead Free Rock Bass Marathon</u> Awards Ceremony, Elkins Dam



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