



# REFLECTIONS

The Newsletter for the Pleasant  
Lake Protective Association

Vol. 51, Issue 1, June 2020



## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Welcome to Pleasant Lake" is the usual refrain that begins this annual newsletter. While for many this greeting means returning to the lake for traditional summer gatherings and activities, this summer could be much different. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and it will likely impact our summer activities too. At the time of this writing, we have planned our 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebratory weekend; fireworks on Thursday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the PLPA on Saturday morning July 4<sup>th</sup>, followed in the afternoon by the traditional boat parade. If changes are necessary in response to the COVID-19 threat we will get the word out via our website, email, and Facebook.

We are planning to hold our annual fishing derby to control the invasive rock bass population. This is a healthy and safe activity for youngsters to participate in. For those who are unable to visit the lake this summer, we will continue publishing *The Nature of Pleasant Lake*, by Jen Esten and Jon Waage. To receive this, go to our website, PLPA.Net, and signup up for our newsletters. These pieces will bring Pleasant Lake right into your home even if you cannot be here in person.

Last fall the lake was lowered significantly for the second consecutive year to allow for much needed repairs to the dam. I am glad to report that those repairs were successfully completed and that the dam is back to normal operation. The impact on wildlife from two consecutive years of lake lowering is unknown at this time, but we are hopeful that recovery will be swift and complete.

Despite the uncertainty going forward, springtime arrived with its usual punctuality and flourish. Father Loon returned to the Lake March 30<sup>th</sup> and Mother Loon was first seen on April 19<sup>th</sup>. On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the ice went out. The dam has been set at summer level and the lake has filled quickly. There have been eagle sightings, ducks galore, turkeys calling, returning kayakers and boaters... summer is not far away.

The Lake Host Program will continue this summer. The fight against invasive aquatic species and animals has been identified as an essential service. The program's sponsor, the New Hampshire Lakes Association, is amending the program as needed to provide for a safe boat ramp experience for visitors and our Lake Hosts. Through the end of last summer, there has been no evidence of



Peter Winship, President and Steve Allenby, Vice President

invasive species in Pleasant Lake, but we know they are proliferating elsewhere and pose a threat to the lake. We will also continue with our volunteer Weed Watcher program that monitors the entire Pleasant Lake shoreline for invasive species.

We expect that our water quality testing program will continue through the State of New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Volunteer Lake Assessment Program. They are kicking off the season with the usual training programs, but through webinars rather than the in-person seminar meetings. It is important that we continue testing to establish and identify long-term trend lines in water quality. To review the most recent DES report, visit <http://tinyurl.com/NH-LakeMapper>.

The PLPA celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> year in 2019. We are fortunate to have many fine volunteers to keep our programs running smoothly. Many thanks to you, our members for making this possible.

Peter Winship, *President*

# LOONS OF PLEASANT LAKE

## 2019 SEASON

PHOTOS BY JEN ESTEN AND JON WAAGE

We had an eventful year with our Loons, to say the least! Our adult pair returned for the 13<sup>th</sup> year in a row and nested on the raft in Turtle Cove. Eggs were laid on May 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>. The parents were interrupted quite often in the beginning by an intruding pair of Loons, often leaving their eggs for up to an hour while defending their territory. Eventually the other Loons left the lake and the remaining nesting period was relatively tranquil.

Our chicks, named Pearl and Placido by the Snyder family, hatched in mid-June, but 9 days later one of the chicks was driven away by its sibling. We sent out an alert via the PLPA newsletter, and thankfully, the chick was found. We attempted to reintroduce the chick to its family three times before taking the chick to a rehabilitator in Maine. There, after a rocky start, Placido thrived under the care of our rehabber, Kappy. Placido was released in September onto a lake in Maine.

As sad as sibling rejection is to see, it is a rather common occurrence in many birds. According to John Cooley, senior biologist at Loon Preservation Committee, New Hampshire loons lose at least one chick from approximately 40% of the nests that hatch two chicks, but only 18% of the nests that start with one chick lose that one. So in retrospect, our Loon pair has beaten the odds over their history on Pleasant Lake.

Meanwhile Pearl had the sole attention of her parents, ate lots of perch and crayfish, and developed into a gorgeous healthy loon! We watched as she grew and learned to fly, eventually making her way to the Gulf of Maine for the winter, where she will stay for at least two years.



## 2020 PLPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

### OFFICERS

President: Peter Winship 848-6700

Vice President: Steve Allenby  
877-0043

Secretary: Judy Oates 526-2173

Treasurer: Tom Stark 526-6741

### BOARD

Sue Andrews 731-9808

Storm Connors 526-6024

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Jamie Hess (cell) 802-291-3939

Marilyn Kidder 526-4250/526-4116

Will Kidder 526-4531

Fred Pierce 526-6594

Scott Reed 860-990-5391

John Ryan 526-4813

John Wilson 526-4069

Sally Winship 848-9464

Oge Young 526-2430

*Honorary Board Member*  
Dick Clayton

www.plpa.net email: [plpa@plpa.net](mailto:plpa@plpa.net)

Message and 'Like' us on our  
Facebook page: Pleasant Lake  
Protective Association

*The PLPA was incorporated in 1969,  
by a group of far-sighted New London  
residents who valued the wonderful  
natural resource we have in Pleasant  
Lake and wanted to provide for its  
long-term protection.*

Newsletter photos by Jennifer Esten  
and Jonathan Waage

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Communications, Inc.



## FISH LEAD FREE!

Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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](http://www.loon.org), the website of The Loon Preservation Committee, to learn more about the Fish Lead Free program.



## THE LAKE HOST PROGRAM

Fortunately the work of the lake hosts has been designated as an essential service so our lake hosts will be working a full schedule this summer. The same lake hosts will be returning. They are Don Sheffield, Sylvia Dowd, Bonnie Lewis, Fred Prior and Lindsay Brook.

For 2019 our lake hosts worked from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They inspected 2173 boats. Of those inspections 1243 were motorized, two were motorboats with ballast tanks and the rest were non motorized watercraft. 92% of the boats had NH registrations. The others included registrations from MA, VT, ME and CT. The busiest days of the week were Saturdays and Sundays. The few samples of weeds removed from boats that were sent in to the State of NH labs were found to be non-invasive.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the lake hosts don't hesitate to contact me at 603-848-9464.

Sally Heald Winship, *Lake Host Coordinator*



Lake Hosts for 2020, from left to right in photo: Fred Prior, Sylvia Dowd, Bonnie Lewis, Don Sheffield and Lindsay Brook (not pictured).

### Leaving fishing line and tackle attached to fish, in the water or bushes can injure wildlife

Many birds perish from the irresponsible management of fishing tackle. During the summer of 2018, a young common merganser was found with a fishing hook and leader embedded in its throat, probably from eating a fish with hooks and line attached as shown below.

It's rare to be able to save a wild bird entangled in fishing tackle. However, with the help of John Cooley, senior biologist at the Loon Preservation Committee, we succeeded in catching the merganser and extracting the hook. This little bird was exceedingly lucky to be found in just the right circumstances to allow a rescue. Please be careful!



This fish has hooks and line still attached

## WEED WATCHERS

This past year the Weed Watchers conducted their monthly inspections of the Pleasant Lake shoreline. No non-native invasive weeds were found. The Weed Watchers included Doug Baxter, John Wilson, Lynn Annicharico, Paul and Linda Messer, Matt White, Becky Rockwell, Carol Cantor, George Jamieson, Bruce Johnson, Sally Winship, Judy Oates, Tom Stark, Bruce and John Williamson, Oge Young, Lisa and Jamie Hess, Bob Kirchberger and Dee and Storm Connors, a group we hope to have back together for this season.

Although there is some concern about damage to the Lake's ecosystem with complete drawdowns of the Lake, one benefit has been and will be a reduction in total weed growth.

Pleasant Lake is fortunate to have such a good group of responsible Weed Watch volunteers.

If you see a Loon in distress or find an injured or orphaned bird or animal, call Jen Esten 781-726-2697, Jon Waage 508-463-5906 or John Wilson 526-4069

Or message us on the Pleasant Lake Protective Association facebook page

# THE NATURE OF TURTLE COVE

This will be an important year for the shallow areas of our lake. Turtle Cove and other shallow perimeter areas are extremely important from a conservation perspective. The Fall is a time when many aquatic animals are retreating to the mud and vegetation to get ready for winter. There they normally avoid desiccation and freezing. However, for two consecutive years the lake has been lowered at least four feet below normal levels in the fall. That has allowed at least some of the lakebed to dry and to freeze for a considerable time.

Turtle Cove, in particular, is the nursery for many species on Pleasant Lake. Turtles, many frog species, toads and newts mate and lay their eggs in or near the shore of the cove. Many birds nest here, along with our Common Loons. These include warblers and other birds that feed their young emerging aquatic insects in the spring. Spotted Sandpipers, Tree Swallows, Phoebe's, Eastern Kingbirds and Kingfishers can be seen in Turtle Cove every day looking for food. Wood Ducks, Common and Hooded Mergansers raise their young there. All of these species depend on the fish or the insects which hatch and emerge from the cove's waters this spring and summer to feed their young. Turtle Cove and other shallow areas are also nurseries for many of the fish in the lake.

We will anxiously watch and hope for a recovery of this important shallow water resource for the health of our lake. The PLPA email newsletter (*The Nature of Pleasant Lake*) will provide updates throughout the summer and early fall. To subscribe, visit [PLPA.net](http://PLPA.net) and scroll to the bottom of the homepage.

*Jen Esten and Jon Waage*



**Common Merganser family**



**Belted Kingfisher**



**Spotted Sandpiper, juvenile**



**Damselfly laying eggs**



## WHAT'S NEW AT THE DAM?

A few years ago, the Town of New London, owner of the Pleasant Lake Dam, arranged, because of demands from the State, to make several improvements to the dam and its operation. The primary object of these improvements was to protect the dam in the case of an extreme weather event which might lead to a breach which in turn could cause considerable downstream damage.

While the work was being completed, several weaknesses in the pipe or conduit which releases water from the lake were noticed. This

steel pipe, which has been in place for many years, was eroding. A plan was developed; a slightly smaller pipe would be inserted into the present one and the space between the two pipes would be back filled with hydraulic cement.

To do this would require that the lake level be lowered. This work was scheduled for the fall of 2018, but because of heavy rains, the lake could not be lowered enough for the project to be completed.

The Town attempted to lower the lake level again last fall. They were thwarted by an inordinate

amount of rain. This time through the combined determination of the contractor and Bob Harrington, the New London Public Works Director, a combination of piping which bypassed the dam and the construction of a coffer dam provided a window in which the work was successfully completed. It was mighty cold by the time the work was finished!

Many thanks go to the persistence of the contractor but even more goes to the dogged determination of Bob Harrington and his crew who aided the contractor, making sure the work was finally completed.

## THE CANARY IN THE DAM HOUSE

In 2008, the Town of New London installed an electronically controlled mechanized dam gate. With the exception of drought or very extreme rain events, the lake level of Pleasant Lake in the summer can be maintained within 2" of its designated summer level of 803' above sea level. Since 2008, there have been two occasions when the sonic transducer which measures the lake level has failed and there have also been two occasions when the electrical power to the dam has failed. All four instances prevented the dam gate from working properly which led, each time, to inadvertent lake level lowering.

There is an extraordinary company in town called Canary Systems which makes, among other things, systems that monitor dam operation. Conversation with them led to an extremely generous proposal on their part which in turn led to the installation of equipment in the dam house which would monitor the lake level, the amount the dam gate is open, the water temperature



and electrical power. This information is sent to a server by means of cellular data. The entire monitoring system has a battery backup. If the power to the dam is interrupted, text messages are sent to New London Dispatch and to the person on duty at the New London Department of Public Works, so that remediation can quickly occur.

This same data is available to all of us interested parties on the [pleasantlake.info](http://pleasantlake.info) website. Since the initial installation of their equipment, Canary has added at their own expense, an electronic rain gauge, an anemometer to measure wind speed and a wind direction indicator.

To access this interesting information, go to [pleasantlake.info](http://pleasantlake.info) where you will see beautiful aerial views of Pleasant Lake. Sign in with "guest" on **both** the username and password lines. Doing so will open up a page showing a map of Pleasant Lake, with five red circular icons located at the dam end of the map. Clicking on each one of these will bring up the information mentioned above. It is intriguing for many of us to follow the working of the dam.

We have a very special dam holding back a very, very special lake.



# 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 than 6 mph. 150 feet = 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.
- Keep your boat and skier 150 feet or more away from EVERYTHING; the shore, the island, other boats, skiers, swimmers, floats, and marked swimming areas.
- Do not drop a skier within 150 feet of the shore.

## 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 to the ignition kill switch.

## 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/](http://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 **A Boater's Guide to NH Boating Law** and **The New Hampshire Freshwater Fishing Digest** are available at Clarke's Ace Hardware in New London.

## THE "150 FEET LAW" New Hampshire Law 270-D: 2 Section VI

### SPEED

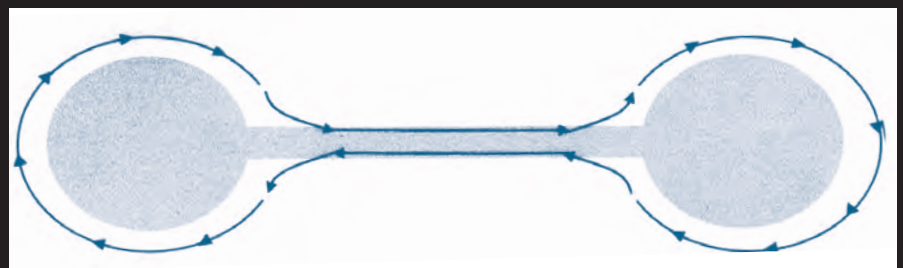
All vessels shall maintain headway speed (only 6 mph and No Wake) when within 150 feet (the length of two ski ropes) from: the shore, the island, other boats, docks, rafts, swimmers, permitted swimming areas.

### BEST PRACTICE

#### TOWING

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!



# THE PLEASANT LAKE BOAT PARADE

SATURDAY JULY 4<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 AT 3 PM

## 2020 Theme: Travel the USA!

Parade marshals will be  
Paul and Linda Messer

2:30 pm Gathering of the  
Boats off Slope 'n Shore

Direction of travel  
will be clockwise

3 pm Parade

The horn will sound and  
we will follow The Tortoise

## PLEASANT LAKE FIREWORKS GOOD NEIGHBOR POLICY

There are about one 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 comes 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 be-

come 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 disappears.

We 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; help us pre-

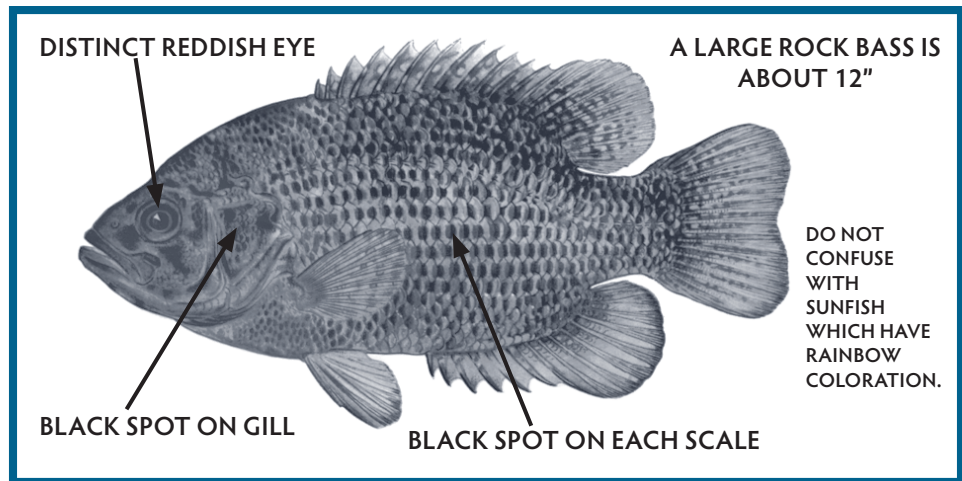
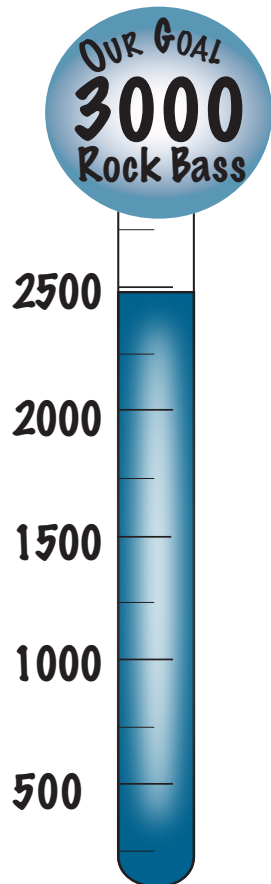


serve and protect the treasure that is Pleasant Lake.

*The Pleasant Lake Protective  
Association Board of Directors*

# PLEASANT LAKE LEAD FREE ROCK BASS MARATHON

**June 13 TO AUGUST 15, 2020**  
**KIDS WIN FABULOUS PRIZES!**



**ALL ANGLERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO CATCH  
AND REMOVE ROCK BASS FROM PLEASANT LAKE.**

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. 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. 15, 2020!**

**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!**

ON THE FINAL DAY OF THE MARATHON, AUGUST 15, 2020, THERE WILL BE A GALA AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE ELKINS DAM! ALL FISH CAUGHT THAT DAY, SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 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
O	25 to 49
C	50 to 99
K	100 to 149
B	150 to 199
A	200 to 299
S	300 to 399
S*	400 to 499
S**	500+



# PLEASE JOIN THE PLEASANT LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

\$ 40.00	Membership Fee	Name: _____
\$ _____	Protection Programs	Address: _____
\$ _____	Fireworks	_____
\$ _____	Where Needed	Town, State, Zip: _____
\$ _____	Total	E-Mail: _____
		Phone number: _____

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)

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership and Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Exotic-Invasive Weed Prevention |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water Quality                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities             | <input type="checkbox"/> Fish Conservation               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Conservation         | <input type="checkbox"/> Boating Safety         |  |

MAIL BY JULY 1, TO:

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

Many thanks!!

## THE PLPA STORE



## SHOP ONLINE AT THE PLPA WEB STORE

Now you can purchase PLPA logo gear online from our web store. You will have a wide variety of styles, colors and sizes to choose from, and they will be shipped directly to your home. To purchase items online, go to PLPA.net and click on “Store” in the upper banner. As each of these PLPA items is custom made, please allow two to three weeks for delivery. If you need something quickly, call our local store managers at 603-848-6700. We can ship items directly to you. Quantities are limited and shipping costs apply. All major credit cards are accepted.

Peter and Sally Winship, *Managers*

## LOST AND FOUND

If you lost something from your beach or waterfront, or if something unexpected comes ashore, please email [will@plpa.net](mailto:will@plpa.net) or send a message to the PLPA Facebook page, and we will try to help!





## PLEASANT LAKE ICE-OUT DATES



2009 APRIL 13

2010 APRIL 2



2011 APRIL 22

2012 MARCH 22



2013 APRIL 17

2014 APRIL 22



2015 APRIL 21

2016 MARCH 1

2017 APRIL 16

2018 APRIL 27



2019 APRIL 20



2020 APRIL 2

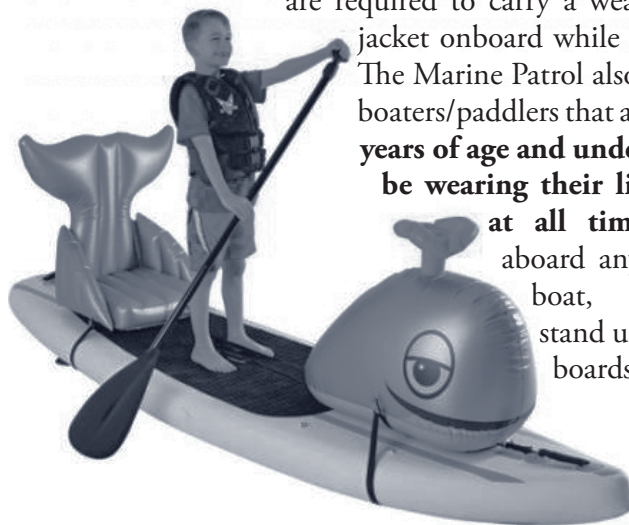
## LIFE JACKETS REQUIRED FOR STAND UP PADDLE BOARDS (SUP)

Stand up paddle boards are considered boats by the United States Coast Guard and the State of New Hampshire. Accordingly, all persons using a stand up paddle board

are required to carry a wearable life jacket onboard while paddling.

The Marine Patrol also reminds boaters/paddlers that anyone **12 years of age and under MUST be wearing their life jacket**

**at all times** while aboard any type of boat, including stand up paddle boards.



## LPC's 2020 Lead Tackle Buyback



From May 1, 2020 through Sept. 1, 2020, or until the initial 2000 certificates are claimed, anglers can exchange one ounce or more of banned\* lead fishing tackle for a \$10 merchandise voucher redeemable at participating tackle shops.

\*Banned lead tackle means a lead fishing sinker or jig (weighted hook) that weighs one ounce or less, regardless of whether it is painted, coated, covered by some other substance or by attached skirts. The sale and freshwater use of the aforementioned tackle is banned by New Hampshire Law. See NH RSA 339:77 and NH RSA 211:13-b .

View Offer Terms at <https://loonsafe.org/lead-tackle-buyback-terms/>.

### LOCAL PARTICIPATING RETAILERS

Clarke's Hardware  
257 Newport Rd.  
New London, NH 03257  
(603) 526-2800

The Tackle Shack  
894 Route 103  
Newbury, NH 03255  
(603) 763-5508



# PLEASANT LAKE WATER QUALITY REPORT

We recently received a comprehensive informative report from Sara Steiner who directs our state's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP) summarizing Pleasant Lake's health 1997-2019. We owe a debt of gratitude to those who have provided consistent water testing over many years. John Wilson and Peter Winship are still dedicated to this task. They only appointed me as chair of this committee because they have so many other Protective Association responsibilities. We comprise a compatible threesome monthly in May, June, July, August and September as we collect samples once a month monitoring our special lake.

Pleasant Lake is a wonderful oligotrophic NH lake — deep, relatively large, with clear water, rocky and sandy shorelines, low phosphorous enrichment, limited rooted plant growth, low algal growth and adequate dissolved oxygen throughout.

The report from the VLAP is far too detailed to include all of it herein, but I will try to highlight the most important information and trends:

1) Our Weed Watchers report **NO EXOTIC PLANTS** — species that are not native (ie. Variable milfoil) and have no natural enemies. Once introduced they quickly out-compete native plants for resources resulting in detrimental effects on the lake ecosystem. Thank you to our Lake Host Program! Also helpful is that our public access sits next to our outflowing dam.

2) **Transparency (clarity)** — Secchi Disc transparency is simply a measure of how far one can see into the water. Using a SDD scope is most accurate. Our average the past 5 years transparency has been to 7.5 meters. There is a stable trend, actually showing slight improvement. The median transparency for NH lakes is 3.3 meters.

3) **Chlorophyll** — the pigment contained in algae for photosynthesis. Pleasant Lake chlorophyll levels indicate a very low growth of algae with continued improvement since 2006. Chlorophyll levels in 2018 and 2019 were 1.1ug/L. The NH state lake median is 4.39ug/L.

4) **Phosphorus** — in fresh water it is the limiting nutrient that determines algae growth. Too much phosphorus al-

lows excessive growth of both algal and cyanobacterium. Sources of phosphorus to the lake are storm water, septic systems, agriculture and fertilizer. Our levels are much less than the NH median (11ug/L), remaining between 4 and 6ug/L since our monitoring began.



The Pleasant Lake Water Testing Team. L to R: Oge Young, Peter Winship, John Wilson. Bruce Johnson and Steve Allenby also participated.

5) **pH** — is the measure of how acidic the water. pH levels between 6.5-8.0 are considered satisfactory. pH is very important to the survival of fish and other aquatic life. Our trend line indicates increasing (improving) pH levels since the monitoring began. This is likely due to the recovery of NH waters from the impact of historical acid precipitation. pH levels can be variable 6.6 to 7.2 over the past 5 years.

6) **Chloride** — elevated levels can be toxic to freshwater aquatic life (in contrast to seas). Higher levels are associated with salted roadways, and to a lesser extent, septic systems, water softeners and dust suppressants applied to dirt roads. Pleasant Lake chloride levels have remained fairly stable. The median level since monitoring began (2004) has been 7.0mg/L. Maximum safe chloride level is set at 9.5mg/L. We did have a spike of 9.2mg/L in 2019, to keep an eye on in the coming years.

In summary, Pleasant Lake is a very healthy body of water. Let's keep it that way by reducing our use of fertilizer, minimal contamination — oil and gas spillage, fire works and keeping our septic systems functioning well. Let's look forward to breaking out of isolation and enjoying another summer on our pristine beloved Pleasant Lake.

Oge Young, *Chair*

## ELKINS FISH & GAME CLUB 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Lake-A-Thon

Sadly, this event has been canceled for 2020. We plan to host the event in 2021 so keep an eye out for information about the Lake-A-Thon next year.

PLEASANT LAKE  
PROTECTIVE  
ASSOCIATION, INC.  
P.O. Box 1584  
NEW LONDON, NH 03257

PRESERVE AND PROTECT  
PLEASANT LAKE

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## CELEBRATE PLEASANT LAKE THIS SUMMER!

### Thursday, July 2

9 pm Cannon Fired! Light the Flares!  
9:30 pm Fireworks!!  
Followed by the Illumination of the Colors and Taps

### Saturday, July 4

8:30 am Coffee, Juice, Pastries (If possible)  
*Location TBD*

9 am PLPA Annual Meeting (If possible)  
*Location TBD*

2:30 pm Gathering of the Boats  
*Off Slope 'n Shore beach*

3 pm Boat Parade  
Theme: Travel the USA!  
The Parade will go clockwise this year.



### Saturday, August 15<sup>th</sup>

12 pm Pleasant Lake Lead Free Rock Bass Marathon  
Awards Ceremony  
*Elkins Dam*