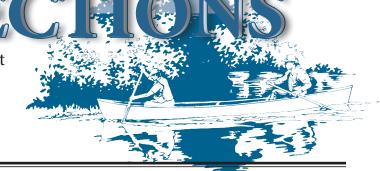


The Newsletter for the Pleasant

Lake Protective Association

Vol. 52, Issue 1, June 2021



A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

"Welcome to Pleasant Lake" probably sounds better than ever this year! We are emerging from a cold winter of COVID and are looking forward to the friends and traditions we have built over the years. Hopefully the vaccine will help make that possible.

In some ways, the summer has already begun! At least that is the way year round residents look at it! The ice is out (April 5th), father loon returned to the lake (April 5th) and the lake is at its summer level.

All of the usual traditions are planned. Fireworks are scheduled for Friday, July 2nd and the Boat Parade is scheduled for July 3rd. The very appropriate theme for the boat parade is, "No Place Like Home." Finally, we are hoping to have an out door annual meeting on July 3rd but developments with COVID or the weather may change that. We will make some final decisions the beginning of June and will keep you updated on our website and Facebook page.

A recent tradition that we are pleased to announce will be back is *The Nature of Pleasant Lake*, by Jen Esten and Jon Waage. The pictures and information conveyed by this online newsletter were highly praised by our members last year. To receive this, go to our website, PLPA.net, and sign up for our emails.

From a water quality perspective I am pleased to announce that the water testing shows once again what a pristine lake we have. The results of the water testing can be found at the NHDES

Lake Information Mapper website. We have also managed to remain free of invasive weeds, thanks largely to our lake hosts and weed watchers. This year we have a great team at the boat ramp that will be overseen by Doug and Charlene Baxter. Our volunteer weed watchers will again patrol the lake to help ensure that we remain invasive-free.

While COVID has had many down sides, it has also created an enhanced appreciation for the beauty and recreational value of Pleasant Lake. Last year, Pleasant Lake saw an influx of people as a result of COVID and the policies it spawned. Our lake hosts helped 68% more boaters than the previous year. I suspect that many of us also had more visitors than usual during the spring, summer and fall.

While we are happy that Pleasant Lake could provide respite to all of these people, the added numbers have created some concerns regarding boating safety. Our Pleasant Lake community has always been proud of our neighborliness and our ability to talk with one another when we have a concern. This has been harder to do with all of the new neighbors we saw last summer, and I suspect we will see this summer. The operation of boats closer than 150 feet from shore, swim floats and kayakers and SUPs was observed too often. This is not only a safety hazard, but it damages the shoreline, especially the waves generated by wake boats. To help reinforce the boating rules for our new and old neighbors,



Steve Allenby, President

our lake hosts will be developing a one-page handout to give to everyone entering the lake. Please let us know if you would like these information sheets for guests at your homes.

We look forward to our trademark neighborliness also applying, as it has in the past, to actions that can adversely impact all of our enjoyment of the lake. We would once again ask that fireworks be limited to a few days around the 4th and not after 10:00 pm. We would also ask people to be considerate with the placement of swim floats too far into the lake, and bright lights left on at night. We are so fortunate to have our lake and each other this summer. And in these times where civility sometimes is scarce, how great is it for all of us to have the Pleasant Lake example of what it is to truly be a neighbor!

Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers and to all of you for making the PLPA possible.

Steve Allenby, President

LOONS OF PLEASANT LAKE 2020 SEASON

Photos by Jen Esten and Jon Waage

Our Loon family had the advantage last year of only having a single chick to raise. It was a relief to have no drama of sibling rivalry or rescuing Loon chicks! As a result, the chick flourished.

This is not to say that our Loon parents didn't experience any stress. They chose the nesting raft in Turtle Cove again and laid their first egg around May 13th. By May 18th they were tormented by a severe infestation of black flies and were frequently harassed by a juvenile Bald Eagle. For a full week they were off the nest nearly every time we visited. Finally on May 23rd a cold north wind put an end to the black flies.

On June 12th the first egg hatched! Dan and Ellie Snyder named the chick 'Pablo". Two days later, the 2nd egg was abandoned. Our regional summer intern for Loon Preservation Committee collected the egg. It will remain in storage and can be tested in future if any reason for concern of pollutants develops.

Pablo became a very capable and independent Loon. Often seen drifting and swimming by himself while his parents were interacting with another Loon. As the Loon population in New Hampshire increases, defending territories will become more competitive.

We last saw Pablo on October 6th. We assume he migrated safely to the ocean. Our Loons have been one of the most productive pairs in NH, and we are hoping they have another successful year on Pleasant Lake!



2020 - 20211 PLPA OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS

President: Steve Allenby 877-0043 Vice President: Judy Oates 526-2173 Secretary: Sue Andrews 731-9808 Treasurer: Peter Winship 848-6700

BOARD

Doug Baxter 526-6275 Storm Connors 526-6024 Ien Esten (cell) 781-726-2697 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 Tom Stark 526-6741 John Wilson 526-4069 Sally Winship 848-9464 Oge Young 526-2430 Honorary Board Member Dick Clayton www.plpa.net

email: 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

Graphic design, printing and distribution by Echo Communications, Inc.

FISH LEAD FREE!

Effective June 1st, 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 an-



glers 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 LAKE HOST PROGRAM

The summer of 2020 was an exceptionally busy one as people worked from home or their lake property, and in general sought out safe and distanced forms of recreation. Our lake hosts inspected and processed a total of 3653 watercraft, a 68% increase over 2019! Of these, 1150 were motorized, 2502 were non-motorized and 85% had New Hampshire registrations. Saturday and Sunday were the busiest days at the boat ramp, however due to the pandemic, weekday inspections were up significantly.

We were once again very fortunate in that no invasive species were found on incoming watercraft; the few samples of weeds removed from boats that were sent in to the State of NH labs were found to be noninvasive.

For 2021 our lake hosts will again be monitoring seven days a week from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Returning this year are our veteran hosts, Don Sheffield, Bonnie Lewis and Chris Brahan. Joining our team will be Jane Slayton and Brian Nunes, both of whom have been frequent visitors to Pleasant Lake and know the boat ramp procedures well.

Please join us in thanking our lake hosts for the excellent job they do helping to protect our beautiful lake. And thank you, for supporting the PLPA and this critically important program.

> Doug & Charlene Baxter, Lake Host Coordinators

Fishing guidelines from The Loon Preservation Committee:

Reel in your line when loons are around and avoid casting in the direction of loons. Loons are visual predators, and if they see your lure/tackle moving through the water, they may strike at it, break your line, and become tangled. If your line gets snagged on a tree, log, rock, shoreline, or something else, please take the time to recover it completely, or to the fullest extent of your ability.

Many birds perish from unrecovered fishing tackle.



This Loon was entangled on another lake in NH.

Photo by **Bill Beattie**

WHAT IS NEW WEED WATCHERS?

The answer is very little! Our Weed Watchers found no non-native invasive weeds during their three monthly examinations of the Lake. In fact they generally found little weed growth at all.

Another thing that has changed very little is our group of Weed Watchers who include Doug Baxter, John and Debbie Wilson, Lynn Annicharico, Paul and Linda Messer, Matt White, Jeff Hollinger, Becky Rockwell and Doug Bent, 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. With but a few exceptions, the standard hair color of this group is gray and getting grayer; they are an experienced and very loyal group.

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

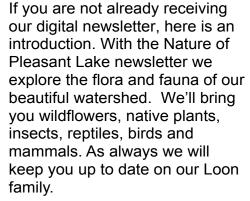
Or message us on the Pleasant Lake Protective **Association facebook page**

The Nature of Pleasant Lake

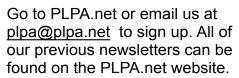
By Jen Esten and Jon Waage







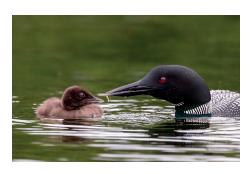








Our 2020 Loons parents successfully raised one very healthy, independent chick. From early on Pablo spent time by himself while his parents kept tabs on a third Loon on the lake. Without a sibling to contend with, (a second egg was abandoned), Pablo was well fed from the start.







Turtle Cove is a nursery for many other creatures. Last year it produced Hooded and Common Merganser and Wood Duck families. The Cove was also home to nesting Tufted Titmice, Common Yellowthroat Warblers, Kingbirds, Song Sparrows and others. Of course toads, frogs, turtles, fish and dragonflies thrived there as well.



Our back yard is a meadow full of native plants and provides us with endless photo and story ops of songbirds, butterflies, dragonflies, spiders and all kinds of insects. We hope others will add native plants to their yards, particularly milkweed and native flowers to help our struggling bees and butterflies.



WHAT'S NEW AT THE DAM?

As was reported at last year's annual meeting, a bearing on the gate at the dam failed in the spring of 2020 leaving the gate locked in an open position. New London's Public Works director Bob Harrington and his crew responded immediately, disconnecting the gate so that it could be closed with the help of a back hoe. They quickly ascertained the specifications for the failed bearing, acquired two new ones and had them machined so that they were compatible with the gate. They installed

one of the new ones and after a bit of tinkering, we were back to normal operation. Pleasant Lake is very fortunate to have such a responsive and capable Public Works department.

Both last summer's drought and the bearing failure, made it difficult for the lake to maintain its normal level during the summer of 2020. However, the lake level has been hovering about 2 inches below the desired summer level of 803 feet above sea level for the last few years. This all began a when the transducer,

which is a sonic detector that reads the lake level and subsequently controls the operation of the dam gate, failed and was quickly replaced. The new transducer was installed in a slightly different position above the lake thus keeping the lake about 2" below its summer nominal level of 803 feet. Bob Harrington and the Town have made a correction to the dam gate setting to insure the nominal summer lake level is reached and maintained barring any drought. Once again our thanks to Bob.

BOAT LAUNCH SIGN

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the PLPA, its Board made the decision to replace the Pleasant Lake sign at the Elkins boat launch. In March of 2019, (then President) Peter Winship asked the PLPA board for volunteers. Marilyn Kidder and Judy Oates raised their hands.

By early July of 2019, the two had asked Mike Gelcius of the Elkins Fish and Game to join them, hoping to make it a joint project between the PLPA and the EF&G.

The group researched signs in the area, but in the end came up with a unique design. Acutely aware of how strongly the winds blow down the lake to the launch site, they started with a model which would break the sign into sections, allowing wind to blow through. They organized the information



into 3 parts, each with an upper and lower section. The upper sections deal with the Elkins Fish and Game history, The Pleasant Lake information, and the PLPA history. The lower three sections provide information on fishing, the lake's loon population, invasive species, and PLPA activities. The modular design allows the sign to be updated as needed.

By the spring/summer of 2020, the committee had grown to include 3 more PLPA board members, John Wilson, Jen Esten, and Jon Waage who specifically worked on the wording/editing. Also, joining the group was another valuable member of the Elkins Fish and Game club, Jay Aubertin. Jay's firm (J.A. Metalcraft of Wilmot) fabricated the sign (now called a kiosk because of its design).

By July, 2020, the sign was installed. It provides valuable information to both our locals and visitors; and serves as a visible model of the power of collaboration between two community organizations.

Judy Oates

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 = 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/ 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

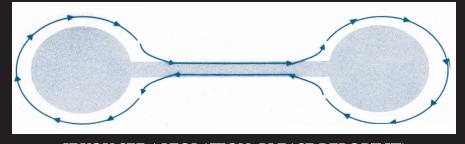
SPEED

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:

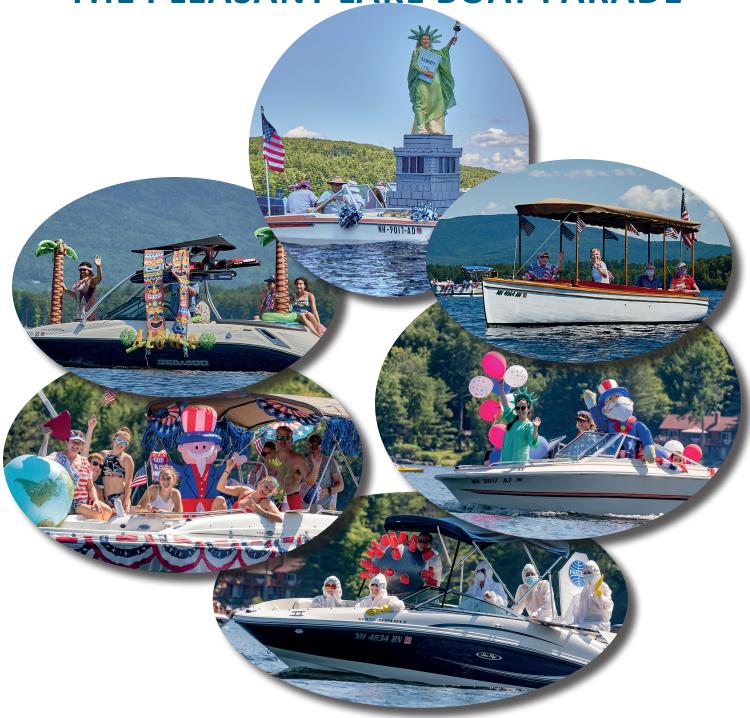
Long, straight runs, with barbell turns help keep the wake moving away from the skier.



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 3RD, 2021 AT 3 PM

2021 Theme:

There's No Place Like Home

Parade marshals will be John and Debbie Wilson

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

Direction of travel will be counter-clockwise

3 pm Parade

The horn will sound and we will follow The Tortoise

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention

Implement the best available prevention technologies at the boat launches in your community!

NH LAKES works with boat launch owners and local partners to upgrade sites to provide boaters with information, tools, and services, to prevent the spread of invasive species.



To find out more about what can be done at boat ramps to prevent the spread of invasive species, download our FREE guide "Best Available Technologies for Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention" at nhlakes.org/store/.



The Good News!

The spread of invasive plants in our lakes is slowing down thanks to the NH LAKES Lake Host Program.

But, Here's the Bad News...

The spread of invasive animals into our lakes is on the rise.

More Must be Done

There are tools that can be offered to boaters to help them clean, drain, and dry their boats, trailers, and gear. Starting January 1, 2020, boaters are required to use prevention technologies if they're available at a boat launch they visit.

CD3 Watercraft Cleaning System

NH LAKES now has a trailered, solar-powered CD3 (Clean-Drain-Dry-Dispose) Waterless Cleaning System. This self-service station offers boaters compressed air, a wet/dry vacuum, lights, and a series of low-tech cable-tethered tools. Our CD3 is touring around the state, serving numerous public boat launches.

Learn More

To find out more about the variety of CD3 Waterless Cleaning Stations available, **visit cd3station.com**.

With Thanks...

We thank the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, the Putnam Foundation, the Emily Landecker Foundation, and several generous donors for their support, allowing NH LAKES to bring the first CD3 Station to boaters in the Northeast!

Everyone likes a clean boat and lake!

NH LAKES is the only statewide, member-supported nonprofit organization working to ensure our lakes remain clean and healthy, now and in the future. For more information, visit nhlakes.org, email info@nhlakes.org, or call 603.226.0299.



PLEASANT LAKE WATER QUALITY REPORT

The Water Quality Committee is pleased to report that the quality of our lake water remains excellent. Pleasant Lake is truly one of a few magnificent oligotrophic lakes in NH - a lake with clear, deep water, rocky and sandy shorelines, low phosphorus enrichment, limited rooted plant growth, adequate dissolved oxygen throughout and low algal growth.

Pleasant Lake's surface area (606 acres) and shore length (7,200 m.) are relatively small compared to its total volume of water (25,761,000 cubic m.) What we have is a deep lake, averaging a depth of 35ft. with a maximum depth of almost 100 ft. and a relatively small amount of surface.

Your water quality team of John Wilson, Peter Winship and Oge Young sample our lake water monthly - May, June, July, August and September. These samples are obtained from different depths at the deepest point on the lake, and also collected at each water inlet (ie. White Brook) and outlet (the dam). They are lab tested at Colby-Sawyer College.

Everyone of our important water quality measures has trended as stable or improving. The pH at the different sites has varied from 6.85-7.01, remarkably healthy since monitoring began. The state median pH value is 6.6. Total phosphorous levels are 3-4 ug/L (standard < 8.0 ug/L) decreasing from 2019. NH's median phosphorus value is 11ug/L. Chlorophyll levels were 1.2 ug/L (standard <3.3 ug/L) considered very good with a state median chlorophyll level of 4.4 ug/L. Transparency measured using a Secchi disc with and without a ViewScope varied from 5.5-6.5m throughout the season. Bottom line, we enjoy a very clear lake. The 2020 state median for clarity was 3.3m.

No exotic species (ie. Variable milfoil) have been reported by our weed watchers. Currently, 89 lakes in NH are infested with an exotic species, plants which out-compete natives for natural resources. Please thank our Lake Hosts for keeping a watchful eye on boats entering our lake. Also, thank our weed watchers (organized by John Wilson for years) who make certain there have been no unfortunate invasions of exotic plants.

In summary, Pleasant Lake is a gem. Let's keep it that way by updating our septic systems, limiting use of fertilizer and maintaining our trees so the shorelines do not erode. We thank you for your support of the PLPA and for doing your part to preserve our healthy lake water.

Oge Young MD

Chair



Let's All Be Neighborly

Wake Boats please watch out for kayakers and other paddlers.

Please: No fireworks after 10 pm.

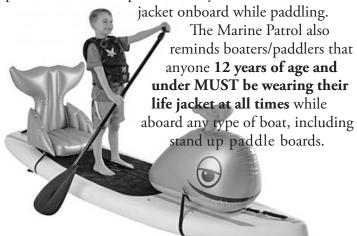
Be mindful of your outdoor lighting.

Thank you!



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



LPC's 2020 Lead Tackle Buyback



The Loon Preservation Committee is continuing the lead buy back pprogram through 2021. 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

 Rocky's Ace Hardware
 The Tackle Shack

 257 Newport Rd.
 894 Route 103

 New London, NH 03257
 Newbury, NH 03255

 (603) 526-2800
 (603)763-5508

PLEASE JOIN THE PLEASANT LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

\$ 4	0.00	Membership Fee	Na	me:		
\$_		Protection Programs				
\$_		Fireworks				
\$_		Where Needed	Tov	wn, State, Zip:		
\$_		Total				
			Pho	one 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)						
	Members	hip and Communications		Watershed Conservation		Exotic-Invasive Weed Prevention
	Water Qu	iality		Activities		Fish Conservation
	Wildlife (Conservation		Boating Safety		
MAIL BY JULY 1, TO: PLEASANT LAKE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION, P.O. BOX 1584, NEW LONDON, NH 03257						
Many thanks!!						

Pleasant Lake Watershed News:

There has been some very good news for the Pleasant Lake over the past year. A total of 182 acres of our watershed have been protected from development. Messer Farm, which is where White Brook originates, has been purchased by the Ausbon Sargent Land Preservation Trust and will remain permanently undeveloped. Bounded on the north by Morgan Hill Road, the farm stretches along Little Sunapee Road on its western boundary and goes all the way back to Slope n Shore on its eastern boundary. The 22 acres of fields along Little Sunapee Road are subject to a 10 year lease agreement with Springledge Farm allowing for more local food production. Ausbon Sargent is currently working with the Forest Society to place and easement on this property to further assure its protection in perpetuity. Two Brook Woods, 28 acres off of Pleasant Street, formerly known as the Canane property and which supported some cattle a few years ago, has also been protected from development. This property was donated to Ausbon Sargent in the spring of 2021. Both Red Brook and White Brook flow through the land, hence the name! This property is now owned and managed by the land trust. Both of these properties will help preserve the water quality of our beautiful lake. Thank you to all of the PLPA'ers who were part of making this happen.

Concerned about speeding vehicles on the roads around Pleasant Lake? Lieutenant David Keith of the NLPD requests that you get a plate number and report this speeder to the department immediately at 526-2626. The NLPD has significantly stepped up patrols in these areas, but we continue to have violators who threaten the safety of our walkers and bikers."

NH State Law Regarding Swim Rafts

(a) Each swim raft placed in public waters shall display the owners name and shore front address plainly marked on the outside of such raft. (b) Each swim raft placed in public waters shall display 12 square inches of reflective material

LOST AND FOUND

at least half way up on all sides of the raft.

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

PLEASANT LAKE
PROTECTIVE
ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 1584
New London, NH 03257

Preserve and Protect Pleasant Lake

CELEBRATE PLEASANT LAKE THIS SUMMER!

Friday, July 2

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

Saturday, July 3

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: There's No Place Like Home The Parade will go counter-clockwise this year.



PLEASE: No fireworks after 10 pm