

# Peacham Pond Association

===== OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER =====

The summer of 2023 was unusual and challenging. Many communities and residents suffered from the July floods and the ongoing rain impacted many others. Our pond had lots of runoff that reduced water clarity and probably increased phosphorus levels. (Our 2023 Lake Scorecard will give this data). We were fortunate the high water levels did not ruin camps or docks or wash out our nesting loons.

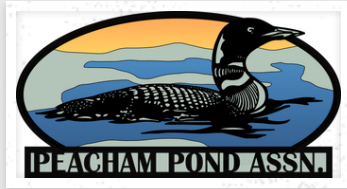
The summer still had its high points and much was accomplished:

- First Peacham Pond dock concert
- First online store
- PPA annual meeting and minutes
- 6th Greeter summer
- Four pairs of nesting loons
- Boat access improvement plans
- Lots of Lake Wise visits

Please enjoy the fall newsletter!

Wishing you a good fall season and happy holidays.

The PPA Board



## ONLINE STORE

This summer was our first attempt at an online store for Peacham Pond merchandise. Jaime Guilmette volunteered to lead this new endeavor. She worked with local businessman, Jeff Apfel, to create a good selection of merchandise. A flyer was emailed to PP folks and many people placed orders. The July flood slowed the process down, but we were happy to have everything ready for delivery at the annual meeting.

Jaime did an outstanding job!! The goal for next year is to get the flyer out earlier in the spring and have merchandise delivered in June. Please send us feedback on your experience.

Jaime:

[stargazer8323@gmail.com](mailto:stargazer8323@gmail.com)

Greg Crossan:

[gscshop@gmail.com](mailto:gscshop@gmail.com)

## FIRST DOCK CONCERT

Thanks to Seth and Natalie Chapell and friends for organizing and delivering a perfect Sunday afternoon of music and fun. Pontoon boats, kayaks, swimmers and some landlubbers all hung out for the afternoon - enjoying old friends and making new ones.

Chad Hollister set up on the Chapell's dock, pointed his speakers out into the bay and kept the music flowing.

There is already talk of another concert next summer. If you would like to help or have ideas for location and music, please reach out to the Chapells.

## GREETER NEWS

Our "fearless" Greeter, Priscilla McCormick-Sampson, was at Peacham's public access weekends and holidays this summer. (She only missed two days due to washed out roads.)

*Thanks Priscilla, for another successful summer.*

Priscilla greeted a total of 301 vessels during her weekend hours. Once again, she found no AIS before launch or at retrieval.

The Town of Peacham has supported the Greeter Program each year by partnering in the grant process, writing payroll checks and helping to cover the cost of Priscilla's salary. We created a graph to capture the Greeter data for the past six years - it is attached below.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to our Greeter Fund. Your support has helped us keep Priscilla on the job!



report to selectboard.docx

[Download](#)

9.9 KB

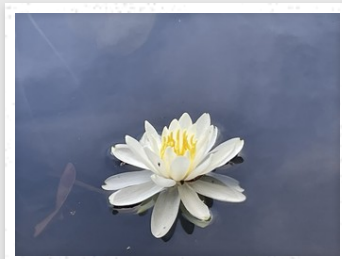
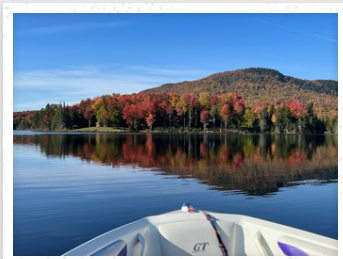


## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

The following sponsors have supported the PPA by placing ads in our 2022 directory and on our PPA website.

*Thank you to:*

- Manosh
- B&B Septic
- Kyle Johnson - Lawn Care and Docks
- Green Mountain Stump Grinding
- Marshfield Village Store
- Templeton Farms
- Farnham Scales
- Laquerre's Power Sports LLC
- Central Vermont Pest Control



## PPA BOARD MEMBERS

President - Martha Winston - [mwinston54@vahoo.com](mailto:mwinston54@vahoo.com)

Vice-President - John Weaver - [johnweaver@weaverprinting.com](mailto:johnweaver@weaverprinting.com)

Treasurer/Online Store - Greg Crossan - [gscshop@gmail.com](mailto:gscshop@gmail.com)

Secretary/Lake Wise - Pat Wiedel - [pkwiedel@gmail.com](mailto:pkwiedel@gmail.com)

Road Committee/Boat Ramp Improvements - Ryan Chapell - [rtchapell81@gmail.com](mailto:rtchapell81@gmail.com)

Road Committee/Boat Ramp Improvements/Sponsors -

John Guilmette - [johnr.guilmette@gmail.com](mailto:johnr.guilmette@gmail.com)

Town Liaison/GMP Liaison/Boat Ramp Improvements -

Allen Freund - [allenfreund123@gmail.com](mailto:allenfreund123@gmail.com)

VIP Coordinator - Greg Matuson - [gmatuson@comcast.net](mailto:gmatuson@comcast.net)



*Photography by: Leslie Spaulding*

## **SUCCESS FOR NESTING LOONS**

Greetings,

Here is the data from 2023 loon nesting on Peacham Pond:

Number of nesting pairs: 4

Number of successful nesting pairs: 3

Northern island (closest to dam): 2 chicks

Eastern island (off of Mason camp): 1 chick

Southern cove (near the Calderara and Tetreault camps): 1 chick

Western cove: no chicks

The chick from the southern cove and one of the pair from the northern island disappeared in late July/ early August. We do not know what happened to these two. There have been eagles circling the pond all summer. That may be one reason. Also, the chick from the southern cove

was seen moving around the southern bay not long after birth, an area which can get busy in the summer.

The two remaining chicks were seen swimming around the dam area as recent as the first week in October, each with one parent. From Cornell Lab, All about Birds: *"Like many young birds, juvenile loons are really on their own after mom and dad leave at about 12 weeks. The parents head off on migration in the fall, leaving juveniles to gather into flocks on northern lakes and make their own journey south a few weeks later. Once the juveniles reach coastal waters on the ocean, they stay there for the next two years. In the third year, young loons return north, although they may not breed for several more years (on average they are six years old when they start breeding)."*

A number of our floating signs need some repairs or replacement. Will be working on that this fall and next spring. If you have any scrap pieces of 2"x6" laying around (over 3 ft in length) that you would like to donate, let me know. Could use some pieces of ½ - 1" rigid foam board as well. Also would be great if someone has a rowboat we could borrow to place and remove signs next year. Can get to some of the areas with the pontoon boats, but not all. Happy to consider buying a used row boat as well.

A big thank you again to everyone that helped out with sign placement and removal, communication with GMP and the PPA Association, providing observations and updates, and just watching out for the new chicks.

Any questions, concerns or information to report, please contact Mark Milazzo [markoantoniomt@yahoo.com](mailto:markoantoniomt@yahoo.com) of 802-426-3284

## PPA DUES FOR 2023

**Thank you** to all who have paid your dues for the year. We have received a total of \$1,529.86 from 52 camps. The \$30 per camp keeps our association and programs up and running.

You are supporting:

- PPA website
- Newsletters
- Greeter program and milage
- Underwater viewing tubes for VIP
- Memorial gifts
- Membership in FOVLAP

We have also received donations to our Greeter Fund in the amount of \$509.69.

Visit our website to pay online: <http://peachampondassociation.org>

Or mail dues to: Greg Crossan, 2 Fox Run Lane, North Reading, MA 01864

*MANY THANKS!*



## 2023 ANNUAL MEETING

We managed to find a sunny Saturday in August for our 2023 annual meeting - what a nice surprise! The Hafners and Boswells hosted the gathering, once again, on their lovely lawn. Appetizers were shared and we all got to visit with neighbors from both sides of the pond. Our meeting included lots of active discussion - as a good meeting should. (The minutes are at the bottom of this newsletter) Greg and Louise Vanasse shared 12 bottles of maple syrup made right on the pond. We raffled off syrup and Peacham Pond t-shirts. Thanks to those who could attend!

## REGISTER FOR SERVICE

The Vermont Community Broadband Board is working to expand broadband internet coverage in the state. Peacham and Groton are two of the areas that may get additional service.

NEK Broadband is requesting those residents who are interested in this service to respond to a survey at this site:

[get.nekbroadband.org](http://get.nekbroadband.org)

## BOAT RAMP UPDATE

On September 18th a group gathered to view a preliminary design plan to improve the public access boat ramp. After discussion with all the involved parties (Vermont Fish and Wildlife, Caladonia County NRCD, Peacham Pond Association, neighbors of the ramp, and the Peacham Road foreman) the design was sent back to be modified to provide a drainage pattern better suited to the narrow ramp area. Once finalized, this group will meet again. At that time, we will send out the plan via email. This should happen soon. Following approval, a grant will be written for funding for the project.

## 2023 LAKE WISE VISITS

The Vermont Lake Wise Program has a new director - Alison Marchione. She has improved the program's outreach and was very responsive to our requests for property evaluations. Her intern, Karina Ricker, came out to the pond and met with 6 camp owners over the course of the summer. Everyone gained knowledge about improving their property to be more "lake friendly". The Winston camp earned a Lake Wise award, so now we have two awards on the pond. Pat Wiedel will be coordinating the Lake Wise visits for next summer. If you would like to schedule a date and time, please send your contact information to Pat: [pkwiedel@gmail.com](mailto:pkwiedel@gmail.com) More about this program is online at:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise>



## **MINUTES – 2023 PPA ANNUAL MEETING**

**Peacham Pond Association Annual Meeting  
August 5, 2023 - Agenda - Hafner/Boswell Camp**

### **Welcome**

Martha welcomed everyone and invited them to introduce themselves and share where they live on the pond and permanent home.

Thank you to Hafners (Charlie and Marion) and Boswells (Luke and Aggie), board members and spouses:

Recognition of Board Members for the past year (2022):

President - Martha Winston

VP - John Weaver

Treasurer - Greg Crossan

Secretary - Pat Wiedel

Road Committee - Ryan Chapell

Road Committee - John Guilmette

Town Liaison - Allen Freund

At large - Greg Matuson

### **Highlights of our year:**

- *PPA Merchandise* - Jaime Guilmette

Jaime worked with Jeff Apfeld and his company. Together, they developed an online catalog of Peacham Pond merchandise. You hopefully received an email to view the online store for two weeks in early June. Unfortunately, the flood slowed the printing and delivery processes, but we now have all the merchandise ready for delivery. Please see Jaime if you ordered items. She also has t-shirts and hats from 2022 and surplus items from Jeff.

*- Boat Ramp Improvements - John Guilmette*

Emily Finnegan, district manager for Caledonia County Natural Resources Conservation District, has written a grant to start a design project for our boat access. We have lots of drainage, parking and snow plowing issues in our narrow access. Emily is working with our association, VT Fish and Wildlife and an Engineering Firm (Fitzgerald) to develop a plan to improve our access area. Currently, a consulting engineer has been hired and they conducted a site review to begin the process. The Peacham Pond Association will be responsible for maintenance once a rebuild is complete. More information should be available next year once a plan is available for review.

- *Lake Wise Assessments and first "Lake Wise Award"*

Last summer the VT-DEC program, Lake Wise, made two visits to Peacham Pond to assess lakeshore properties. The Lake Wise assessment uses guidelines established to encourage using best practices on all land near the pond. After meeting and reviewing your property, Lake Wise responds with a report on improvements and/or a "Lake Wise Award" if you meet all of their criteria.

Mark Milazzo was awarded a Lake Wise Award last year for his property on Peacham Pond Road. This summer Lake Wise will be visiting several more properties. Stay tuned for the results.

- *Dock Concert at Chapell Bay - Seth and Natalie Chapell*

Weather was great and we had a good turn-out. A local band from Worcester came and played on the dock from 2:00-6:00 pm.

To do it again next year, it would be helpful to put signs up in advance to get the word out.

**New slate of officers for 2023:** (vote)

President - Martha Winston

VP - John Weaver

Treasurer/merchandise coordinator - Greg Crossan

Secretary/Lake Wise coordinator - Pat Wiedel

Roads/boat ramp/sponsors - John Guilmette

Roads/boat ramp - Ryan Chapell

Town liaison/boat ramp/GMP liaison - Allen Freund

VIP coordinator - Greg Matuson

The slate of officers was unanimously approved by a vote of those in attendance.

**Secretary's Report:** Approval of minutes from 2022 annual meeting (vote)

The 2022 annual minutes were unanimously approved by a vote of those in attendance.



**Treasurer's Report:** Greg Crossan (vote)

Presented and approved

**Road Committee Report:** Ryan Chapell or John Guilmette

Ryan shared how fortunate we are that our roads were not damaged further as a result of the flooding. 802 Lawn Care (Seth Graves) did an excellent job this past winter with plowing and sanding. Jeremy also sanded and pushed back the snow as needed.

Jeremy has been busy with Mack Mountain and other areas damaged by the floods. This year the Town of Peacham hired someone to do roadside mowing. Unfortunately, funds were limited to do more of this, and grass, undergrowth and shrubs are enshrouding areas along the roads. Annette Lorraine shared that she and Rick Scholes often take a pair of clippers as they walk along the road to clip back areas of concern, and encouraged others to consider doing the same. Ryan encouraged those with concerns about John Jewett road to contact the road foreman for the Town of Marshfield.

**Loon Report:** written by Peacham Pond's new loon monitor Mark Milazzo and read by Barbie Spaulding (attached).

**Water Quality Reports:**

*Lay Monitors*

Janice Guilmette, Pat Wiedel and Martha Winston traded off months and will complete the 2023 Lay Monitor reports. This program has gotten much easier to accomplish as Vermont matches their data collection records to neighboring states. That way they can combine data for better information on AIS transmission, lake warming and other regional issues. Now only 6 samples are collected during the summer (2 in June, 2 in July, 2 in August). And they are shallow water samples. If you are at the pond during the summer, we are looking for a new team to take on this "citizen scientist" job. It's easy! The results become our "Lake Scorecard" that is published every year on the DEC website.

*Greeter Program*

Priscilla McCormick Sampson is our Public Access Greeter for the 6th year in a row. She is experienced, friendly, and takes her job very seriously. This has been a slower year at the boat ramp - floods and rainy weather have kept our visitors down.

The Town of Peacham supported our cause last year and paid the difference between the state grant money and the rest of Priscilla's salary. The PPA had offered to pay her milage and we did that - it amounted to approximately \$950.

*VIP Program*

We have 5 excellent patrollers working in our Vermont Invasive Patrollers program. They each have a viewing tube that allows them to see the aquatic plants along the shoreline. Each has a portion of the pond they patrol and then, after each patrol session, they turn in an online report to the state. I brought my viewing tube if you'd like to give it a try after the meeting.

Training occurs every summer - and all patrolling is done on your own time - it's fun, easy and a good way to get to know your aquatic neighbors.

Of course, we are looking for invasive species and want to be on the alert if they are sighted.

The state has an emergency response team if we have any invaders or suspect a problem.

### *GPM Water Drawdown and Flood Response*

We have completed year three of our drawdown plan. That means we have two more winters where the pond level will be lowered 6.6 feet or less. Then we will enter the second phase of the plan and for the next five winters; the pond will be drawn down 3.0 feet or less.

After that time the pond level will not be changed unless there are weather or other concerns. GMP was very responsive during the loon nesting time and the during the flooding rains. They were monitoring the pond level and in touch with us - very helpful.

### **Wake Boat Regulation Update:**

The state is finishing up public hearings this week on proposed wake boat regulations. There was an in-person meeting on August 1st, an online meeting on August 3rd and final written comments were due today.

New regulations seem likely. If passed as written there will be several restrictions:

1. On lakes, ponds, and reservoirs with a minimum of 50 contiguous acres that are 500 feet from shore on all sides and 20 feet deep, wakeboats may operate (eligibility rule).
2. Wakeboats must be 500 feet from shore at all times while engaging in wakesports (operating rule).
3. A wakeboat must stay in one lake per calendar year unless boat is decontaminated by a DEC-approved entity (home lake rule).

Peacham Pond is large enough to have a wake boat zone. There has been strong pressure to make the distance from shore 1000' instead of the proposed 500'. If that distance was increased Peacham Pond would not be large enough for wake boats to operate.

### **New Business:**

**Recommendation from Rick Scholes:** BestMadeProducts.com (aluminum docks out of finger lakes region) for those interested.

**Road Safety PSA:** Slow down!

**Land Trust Trail:** Seth and Keith have tried to get out there. It's very wet, but still a nice recreational spot.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Wiedel