

PEACHAM POND ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2021

Hello to Spring

Spring has arrived and soon we can enjoy another summer on Peacham Pond. This year should bring more chances to be with family and friends - maybe even some social outings and events. Let's hope so!

Over the winter the PPA board had several big projects to keep us busy:

- Gathering information about the new GMP water draw down plans
- Meeting on Zoom with state and GMP representatives to share information with you
- Designing a new website for the association
- Writing a state grant to fund our Greeter Program

Catch up with all the new developments in this newsletter and plan for a wonderful summer ahead!

Martha Winston and The Peacham Pond Board



New PPA Website

Michelle Risley spent several months and countless hours designing our new website. She used her enormous creative talents to fill the site with important content and interesting visual aids, from graphs to charts to photos. A small team of content creators helped pull it all together: Pat Wiedel, Barbie Spaulding, John Guilmette, Mark Milazzo and Martha Winston. We are thankful for Michelle's dedication to this important project and we can't wait to hear what you think! Please see the link below.



Peacham Pond Association

peachampondassociation.org



New Logo!!

Last fall a wonderful person responded to our call for design help. Michael DePinto created this beautiful and unique Peacham Pond Association logo. It will grace many things in the years to come.

Many thanks Michael!

If you are interested in helping design hats, t-shirts or other pond items around this logo, please contact Martha Winston.



Family Day - Annual Meeting

We are thinking positively and planning our Family Day for Saturday, July 31, 2021 at 4:00pm, location TBA. This gathering will have a simpler format; the PPA board will provide appetizers and we ask everyone to bring their beverage of choice. After a social hour, we will hold our annual meeting. Our picnics over the years have been fun, but also hard to plan and execute. Let's hope we can have a good gathering and see lots of pond neighbors. More info to come this summer via email or flyer.



Greeter Program

2021 will be our fourth year to have a Greeter Program at the public boat access. The state grant money was approved and it will partially fund our summer program. With help from the Town of Peacham and our PPA "Greeter Fund" we will be able to have lots of coverage. Our dedicated greeter from the start, Priscilla McCormick-Sampson will return this summer and we welcome her back as one of the best in the state. Last summer she logged and inspected a record 406 watercraft in just 33 days of work.

This year Priscilla will extend her hours and work on Fridays, in addition to her usual Saturday and Sunday shifts. Stop by and say hello.

GMP Plan for Winter Draw Down

In November of 2020 we learned that Green Mountain Power had a new plan for our winter water levels on Peacham Pond. This plan was formulated when the GMP dam on Molly's Falls (Marshfield Reservoir) needed repair. The Vermont Department of Natural Resources and Green Mountain Power worked together to meet state statutes and environmental requirements resulting in higher water levels during the winter. Less freezing of the shallow shoreline areas, to preserve plant and animal life, was the major goal. The resulting plan will change our winter water levels in two stages. The first five-year stage will drop the water level approx. 6.5 feet each winter. The second and permanent stage will drop the water levels only 3 to 3.5 feet. This will impact docks, boat lifts and structures that extend into the pond.

In February we held a Zoom meeting with representatives from Vermont DEC and GMP. They answered questions and advised us to be prepared to change our docks and boat lifts to moveable structures as the water levels change. Please see the attached GMP Plan.



New Peacham Pond Requirements[1].docx

 Download

14.3 KB



Volunteers Needed! Become a VIP!

Vermont Invasive Patrollers (VIPs) paddle along the shoreline of Peacham Pond twice a year. Using viewing tubes, they examine the shallow zones close to the shore to see the plants and animals living there. This close look is to view and record both good and invasive species. If invasive plants or animals were to take a hold in our pond, the patrollers would be the first to see them. Then, quick action can be taken.

We plan to host a VIP training at Peacham Pond in July of this year (with the expectation that COVID restrictions will be lifted). Please consider volunteering for this fun and worthwhile job. Patrolling times are flexible - a kayak or canoe is needed - viewing tubes will be provided.

To become a volunteer sign up on our new website or contact Martha Winston at mwinston54@yahoo.com



PPA Dues for 2021

Dues for 2021 are \$30 per camp. Our new website allows you to pay online - a wonderful convenience. Or, you can mail your check to:

Barb Spaulding
PO Box 512828
Punta Gorda, FL 33951

Last year we had approximately 70% of Peacham Pond camp owners pay dues. Those dues help fund our Greeter Program, pay for our newsletter and PPA website, fund our Family Day, pay dues to state organizations and help support other environmental activities on the pond. Thank you for supporting the work we do!

We will be electing a new PPA Board at the annual meeting (July 31st). Several board positions are open. We welcome all pond owners to become involved. Again, the new website is the place to learn about the many opportunities and to sign up to help.

Road Committee - Spring Report

Peacham Pond had a relatively mild winter with minimal snowfall. Our roads were plowed and sanded by a new contractor out of St Johnsburry. It was a challenging start with this new service, often not plowing before 10am. Issues were reported to the Peacham Road

Commissioner, who dealt directly with the plow service. By the end of the season, they found a better routine. It is likely this same contractor will return next year.

VT Department of Fish and Wildlife did a nice job plowing the area around the boat landing keeping it clear for ice anglers and year-round residents alike.

The Peacham Highway Department graded pond roads on April 27th. Luckily, the roads dried out quickly this year which helped with the severity of ruts, potholes, and washboards. Also, a drier spring allowed the town to gain access for grading a bit earlier than in previous years.

The Town Road Foreman indicated it is his intention to try to replace damaged or blocked culverts this summer. However, we learned that the Peacham Highway Department is constrained by a tight budget. Therefore, promises could not be made.

Green Mountain Power has approval for their proposed proactive plan to remove ash trees along their power line. This is due to the recent threat of the Emerald Ash Borer. The bug destroys ash trees from the inside, meaning they can collapse – causing a safety hazard for residents and crews, while also creating the potential for outages. Green Mountain Power has hired a tree service to remove ash trees along their right of way around the pond and the project is currently underway.

If interested in learning more or becoming part of the Peacham Pond Road Committee -- please contact Ryan Chapell at rtchapell81@gmail.com or John Guilmette at johnr.guilmette@gmail.com.

Town of Peacham

Please check out the Town of Peacham website and Facebook page for the latest in Town activities and hours of operation for Town offices, library and shops.

- Town of Peacham website - peacham.org
- Facebook - [For the Love of Peacham, VT](#)

Attend the virtual FOVLAP "Lake Seminar"

FOVLAP (Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds) hosts a Lake Seminar each spring. They have a full day of speakers and events for anyone interested in learning about environmental issues affecting Vermont's fresh waters.

This year it will again be a virtual event titled "Phosphorus Pollution - A High Stakes Watershed Issue". You can attend and learn from the comfort of your living room. The seminar will be on Friday, June 4, 2021 from 9am - 2:30pm. Registration is online (fees are \$30) at vermontlakes.org.

The PPA always sends a representative. If you would like to be that person, we will reimburse your fees and you can share your experiences at the annual meeting.

Contact Martha Winston

