

PEACHAM POND ASSOCIATION

MAY 2022

SPRING ON THE POND

Hello to our pond neighbors and friends,

We are all looking forward to summer on Peacham Pond. The ice has melted, the loons have returned and soon we will be back to our summer activities. During the winter months the PPA board has been busy with several projects:

- Ryan Chapell and Jaime Guilmette are working with a local company to design Peacham Pond t-shirts and hats - using our new logo.
- John Weaver and his company, Weaver Printing, have offered to print a new 2022 PPA directory. Please fill out your information! The link is in this newsletter.
- The results of our first PPA survey were interesting and helpful.

And these three items are also of interest:

- A new group in Vermont called Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) is addressing the issues large wake boats pose to smaller lakes and ponds.
- The FOVLAP (Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds) Lake Seminar will focus on climate change and how it affects our lakes and ponds. You can attend on Zoom!
- The Town of Peacham has a committee working on proposals for spending ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds. See what is proposed and voice your opinion.

Thanks to you and to our PPA board members for supporting our goal of protecting and preserving the pond for everyone.

Martha Winston and the PPA Board

PPA MERCHANDISE

This summer we will be offering short sleeve t-shirts and hats with the new PPA logo. Ryan Chapell and Jaime Guilmette have been working with Cardinal Point in Northfield, Vermont to create a high quality product. When we surveyed pond owners in 2021, there were many items

suggested to create using our new logo, but these two items topped the list. Each summer we will try to offer several new items with our PPA logo and eventually hope to satisfy everyone!

Hat - adjustable size

Men's short sleeve t-shirt - S/M/L/XL

Women's short sleeve, v-neck, t-shirt - S/M/L/XL

Hats and shirts will be available in June. Prices TBD. We plan to have a good selection at the annual meeting in late July. All proceeds will support our Greeter Program.

For more information contact Jaime Guilmette @ stargazer403@msn.com



NEW DIRECTORY FOR 2022

It has been five years since Weaver Printing produced out last PPA directory. John Weaver has offered to create a new pond directory for us this year - thank you John!! Of course, we would like all the information to be correct and up to date.

You can help by filling out this google contact form.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUTUh-eCoe8U0Zu4sbnYuusLX1tQktgCo-aylsf5PwTTqbPA/viewform?usp=pp_url

Our hope is to have the directory available at our annual meeting on July, 30, 2022.

For the first time, we will be offering advertising in the directory. Half page black and white inside the directory. Full color page on the back.

Contact Martha Winston for information (mwinston54@yahoo.com)



PPA ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, July 30, 2022.

4pm - 6:30pm.

Location TBA.

Last summer we tried a new format for our annual meeting. Our gathering was held at the end of July and in the late afternoon. The food was all provided by the PPA board. There was only one raffle item and no activities for families. It was easier for the the board memebers to pull this event together and most who attended were happy with the outcome.

We are going to follow this meeting format again this year and hope you will come to see your neighbors and hear the latest news.

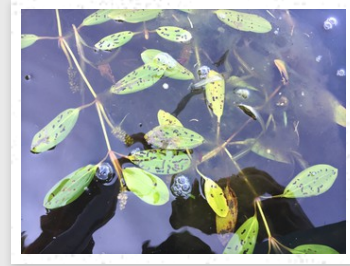
We do have a group of volunteers who would like to host a fun, social event during the summer. Stay tuned for more on that!



5TH YEAR FOR GREETER PROGRAM

Our greeter, Priscilla McCormick Sampson (working for her 4th consecutive summer) was at our boat ramp for more hours in 2021. We extended her hours to cover Fridays, as well as the usual weekends and holidays. The additional Friday hours were busy during good weather days, but very quiet when poor weather came in. Priscilla had a busy year, she logged and inspected 392 watercraft. No signs of AIS were found on lauching or retrieval of those watercraft.

In 2021 the state grant was for \$3,134, PPA contributed \$1,300 and the Town of Peacham contributed \$1,000. All money went to our greeter's salary. This summer, we will reduce Friday to a half day and keep the weekends and holidays at 8 hours (7am-3pm). Pricilla plans to be our greeter again in 2022 - we are fortunate!



NEW VIPS ARE AT WORK

VIPs (Vermont Invasive Patrollers) are volunteers who paddle the shoreline of Peacham Pond identifying and monitoring aquatic plants. This past summer five volunteers took the online VT-DEC training or the on-water paddle training. They carefully paddled all of the shoreline of our pond and began the hard work of identifying all the aquatic plants and monitoring for invasive. This summer they will continue their training and paddling. Volunteers can monitor the shoreline on their own schedule and report directly to VTDEC using online reports. It is a fun and interesting opportunity for learning for any age! Contact Martha Winston mwinston54@yahoo.com if you would like more information.



PPA SURVEY RESULTS - YOU SPOKE, WE LISTENED!

Our first ever PPA survey went out in the Fall 2021 newsletter. Responses were low, so we re-sent the survey in an email in early January. Thank you to the 36 people who responded! The questions revealed a lot about your favorite activities and your concerns for the pond.

Here is a sampling of the information we gathered:

How many years have you been on the pond?

- ranged from 1.5 years to 66 years

How do you like to recreate? (you could choose multiple answers)

- 87% kayak or non-motorized boating
- 84% swim
- 74% motor boat (ski, tube, fish, cruise)
- 33% fish
- 3% walk, hike, bike, watch birds, R&R, picnic

What concerns do you have about our water quality?

- algae and invasive plants, water level changes, less minnows and crawfish, lack of loon chicks, climate change

What is the biggest concern for your property and the future of the pond?

- taxes, water quality, shoreline erosion, old septic systems, water levels, ice damage, clean water, negligent property owners

We received lots of responses from those willing to help with PPA projects. Thank you!! You will be contacted this spring and summer and your help will be much appreciated!

2022 DUES AND DONATIONS:

Annual Dues of \$30 per camp can be paid online at <http://peachampondassociation.org> or our treasurer:

Greg Crossan

2 Fox Run Lane

North Reading MA 01864

Donations to support our **Greeter Fund** - which will go directly to pay our greeter's wages this summer can also be made online or to our treasurer.



The top picture shows a wakeboat path 250' to the left. The wake is propagating to the right. The bottom picture shows a loon nesting platform tipping to the point where an egg could roll into the water. Wake could also wash through the nest cracking an egg or flushing it out of the nest.

WAKEBOAT PROPOSED REGULATION

A little over a year ago the Peacham Pond Association (PPA) was approached by a member of the Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOLAP) asking if there would be interest in participating in a group that was forming to look into the issues of wakeboats operating on Vermont lakes and ponds. As wakeboats have become more popular in Vermont, conflict with other lake usage has grown. Martha Winston reached out to Mark Milazzo and he agreed to participate, not as a member of PPA, but as an individual.

By definition, a “wakeboat” is any powerboat vessel which, by design or modification, has one or more functional ballast tanks, bags, compartments, containers, plumbing, hull design or devices, or other similar devices or systems used to increase the displacement of the vessel or otherwise affect its performance for the purpose of enhancing or increasing its wake while under power.

A group was formed in March of 2021 called Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL). RWVL includes a diverse group of citizens across Vermont engaged in efforts to conserve and manage the resources of Vermont’s lakes and ponds. Members are active users of Vermont’s public waters as lake and watershed homeowners, boaters, water skiers, paddlers, sailors, anglers, and swimmers. After a year of significant research and discussions with stakeholders within Vermont and across the country, RWVL submitted a [Petition](#) on March 9, 2022 under the Vermont Use of Public Waters Rules, asking the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to manage wake boats and their activities in Vermont lakes and ponds. RWVL’s petition aims to protect public waters for current and future generations while allowing Vermonters to enjoy traditional family activities such as boating, water skiing, paddling, sailing, fishing, and swimming enjoyment and also continuing to enjoy wake-enhanced sports in appropriate venues. It should be noted (and it is clear in the petition) that RWVL is not seeking to regulate any other boating activity or watersports other than wakeboats and associated wakesport activity.

It had been Martha and Mark’s hope we could make PPA aware of the RWVL effort and the petition last year, but the research took a significant amount of time and involved multiple stakeholders across the state and the country. So Martha and Mark signed the petition as individuals in early March of this year with the intent of making PPA aware this spring. That is where we are now. There will be a public comment period and public hearings as part of the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) formal process. Martha and Mark are also willing to have discussions with the PPA about wakeboats, the petition and their decision to support RWVL’s effort to regulate wakeboats. It is our hope more PPA members and users of Peacham Pond will support the effort to regulate wakeboats in the state of Vermont as they understand the impact wakeboats have on other traditional lake uses, the environment, propagation of aquatic invasive species, our shorelines and public safety.

A little more detail on RWVL’s effort

Many states across the country are currently dealing with Wakeboat concerns and conflicts and are pursuing similar Wakeboat management strategies. Backed by extensive research, RWVL’s petition reflects thoughtful consideration of the best available scientific studies. If

adopted, the proposed rule would balance the enjoyment of wake boats and wake sports with the need to limit these activities to water bodies appropriate for wake-enhanced sports. The rule would not apply to the use of conventional boats used for wakeboarding, tubing, or waterskiing. It also would not apply to lakes bordering other states and Canada, including Lake Champlain or Lake Memphremagog.

Wake-enhanced sports are relatively new, enjoyable activities. However, they may be uniquely disruptive to traditional family activities. Wake-enhanced sports present safety concerns and often interfere with the peaceful enjoyment and solitude of smaller lakes and ponds. Wake-enhanced sports have been shown to threaten water quality, disrupt natural lake ecologies, and introduce aquatic invasive species through ballast tanks which cannot be completely emptied when traveling from lake to lake. Powerful wakes may contribute to shoreline erosion with destruction of the habitat of loons and other wildlife. In shallow water, downward directed wake boat propeller wash can cause bottom scouring. Both of these actions can degrade water quality and increase phosphorus concentrations thereby fueling toxic algae blooms. Because of these adverse impacts, RWVL views current, unmanaged wake boat use as inconsistent with at least four Vermont statutes.

An improved wake sport management strategy stands to benefit water quality, aquatic ecosystems, wildlife, and people throughout the state. This petition offers the opportunity to provide access to the widest variety of watersports while simultaneously protecting Vermont's lakes and ponds and securing the many interests of present and future generations in Vermont.

To learn more about this topic, please watch the [RWVL "Community Conversations" presentation](#) to the Sierra Club's Vermont Chapter on July 14, 2021.

Here are some recent articles in local media about RWVL and Wake Boats in Vermont:

[Valley News April 5 2022](#)

[Bennington Banner March 23 2022](#)

[Sidenote March 20 2022](#)

Want to get involved? Please contact Mark or send an email to

responsiblewakesvt@gmail.com

Martha Winston and Mark Milazzo

FOVLAP LAKE SEMINAR

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) presents a day-long seminar every spring on a relevant topic concerning Vermont lakes and ponds. This year the seminar will held on Friday, June 3rd from 9am to 3pm. The topic is:

"Vermont Lakes in a Changing Climate: From Issues to Action"

Once again, it will be on Zoom. The event is free and open to everyone.

Register online at <https://vermontlakes.org>

TOWN OF PEACHAM AND ARPA FUNDS

The Town of Peacham will receive \$214,000 in ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds to use on eligible projects in the next several years. A committee has been working to compile a list of projects, both big and small, that meet the guidelines. It will be up to the Peacham Select

Board to ultimately vote on how the funds will be used. This committee has worked hard to reach residents and taxpayers for input on proposed projects. Please visit <http://peacham.org/arpa> to see the list and to share your opinion