

Peacham Pond Association Newsletter

OCTOBER - 2022

SUMMER OF 2022

Hello to all,

We are saying goodbye to a lovely summer. The pond was the perfect place to be! So many swimmers, pontoons, anglers, kayakers, tubers and skiiers. We also have many new stand-up paddle boards gliding across the pond.

This newsletter will attempt to capture the many activities and projects that kept our PPA board and volunteers busy this summer, plus some projects to come. You will see the words "thank you" a lot, because it takes many people to keep this all rolling!

- Report from the 5th year of the Greeter Program
- T-shirt and hat sales
- New 2022 PPA directory - did you get yours?
- Vermont Invasive Patrollers - what they are finding!
- Our first Lake Wise Award
- Lay Monitors at work
- Water drawdown for this winter
- Update on the RWVL Wakeboat petition
- Minutes from the 2022 annual meeting

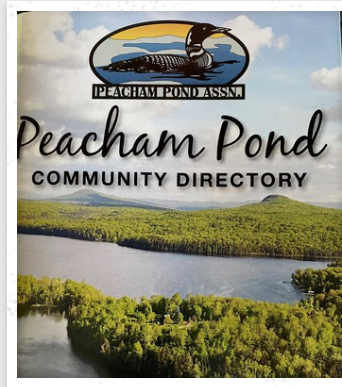
Thank you for all your support! Have a enjoyable fall and a happy holiday season,
The PPA Board



5TH SUMMER FOR GREETER PROGRAM

Our Peacham Pond Greeter, Priscilla McCormick-Sampson has been with us for 5 years - since the start of our program. She takes great care to educate boaters about AIS as she greets and logs them onto her iPad before entering the pond. This summer Priscilla logged 362 boats, visiting from five states and 71 different waterbodies. Her salary this summer was \$5,330. We received money from a DNR grant and the Town of Peacham will help with the balance. We also paid Priscilla mileage this year, as she travels from her home in Barnet to work for us.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and personable greeter, who loves our pond. Thank you Priscilla!



NEW PPA DIRECTORY

John Weaver and his company Weaver printing in Cranford, NJ, created our new directory. John insisted that this be a donation to the PPA and we can thank him for the beautiful result. If you have paid your dues for this year, you should receive a directory. Please let Martha Winston know if you need one: mwinston54@yahoo.com. An extra directory can be ordered for \$5.



PPA HATS AND SHIRTS

Last spring, Ryan Chapell and Jaime Guilmette volunteered to design some PPA shirts and hats using our new loon logo. They worked with Cardinal Designs in Northfield, VT. Once the merchandise was ready, Jaime and Katherine Nelson volunteered to sell and distribute on either side of the pond. The sales went well and we have requests for more shirts (we ran out of several sizes) and possibly a child's shirt for next summer. Thanks to this great group for making this project a big success! We will definitely have more items to come next summer . . .



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS HELPFUL ANIMAL?

When James Taffel spoke at our PPA meeting in July, he described the wonders of the plant and animal life in our pond. This unusual looking object is a freshwater bryozoan. You can see them in the shallow bays, attached to logs or plant stems. They are one of the "good" aquatic species you might find along the shoreline. These invertebrate animals live in colonies and through their digestive process, actually filter the water and help keep it clean.

Our group of VIP's (Vermont Invasive Patrollers) spends time during the summer months locating and identifying many different aquatic plants and animals. We have over 31 different types of good aquatic plants in the pond. Of course, VIPs are always on the lookout for the most common invasives, like Eurasian milfoil, water chestnut, zebra mussels or hydrilla. Peacham Pond remains a waterbody free of invasive species. This is not a "given" as every boat that enters our pond has the potential to bring invasive species on a trailer, on a propeller, in a ballast tank, or in a bait bucket.

Our greeter can check visiting watercraft on the weekends she is working, but we have many boats and trailers that put in at private boat ramps around the pond. If you have a ramp, please remember that all boats must be "CLEANED, DRAINED AND DRIED" before entering the pond. CLEAN = make sure no aquatic plant of any kind is attached to the boat or trailer
DRAINED = all ballast tanks, jet-ski motors, wells or others tanks holding water are drained
AWAY from the pond, so none of this water runs into the pond.

DRIED = sponge or dry out any standing water. Zebra mussel seeds are too small for the eye to see. They travel in water from other infested waterbodies.



PPA ANNUAL MEETING

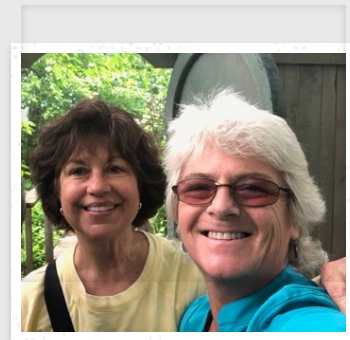
On July 30th we gathered at the Hafner/Boswell camp on Onion Point Road for our annual PPA meeting. We enjoyed the beautiful view and snacked on appetizers. Everyone in this big circle got a chance to introduce themselves and a very lively meeting followed. Each year we face new challenges to keep our pond safe and yet accessible. During the meeting we shared lots of current challenges and opinions. The minutes from our meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter.

Thank you to Charley and Marion Hafner and Luke and Aggie Boswell for hosting our group. They welcomed us and lent a hand with all the chores - thank you good neighbors!



FIRST LAKE WISE AWARD

We are fortunate to have Emily Finnegan (district manager of the Caledonia County Natural Resource Conservation District) as a new and very helpful contact. Emily found funding and time to make two property visits on Peacham Pond Road and perform Lake Wise evaluations. Mark Milazzo's property met the criteria to be awarded a Lake Wise Award this year. This award signifies that his property has the best lake friendly practices possible. If you would like to know more about best practices for lakeshore living, please visit the Lake Wise website at: <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise>



LAY MONITORS

Lay Monitors have been at work on Peacham Pond for over 20 years! Our current team is Janice Guilmette and Pat Wiedel. Janice and Pat have worked together for the past two years to collect water samples and take water clarity measurements during the summer months. This important information is collected and evaluated by the VT-DEC and the results become our Lake Scorecard. Take a look at our 2021 Scorecard at https://anrweb.vt.gov/PubDocs/DEC/WSMD/Lakes/Lake_Score_Cards/PEACHAM.HTML Would you be interested in becoming a Lay Monitor? It's a fun "citizen scientist" job. You are contributing to important data and helping the pond too. Let Martha Winston know if you would like to learn to do this interesting volunteer job.

2022 DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

THANK YOU to all those who have paid their dues for this year. We have received dues from 54 camps. We also would like to thank those who have contributed to the Greeter Fund. The

\$1,265 received this summer will help pay the wages and mileage for our greeter, Priscilla, for 2022.

Dues are \$30 per camp and that includes a free 2022 PPA directory.

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

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

YOUR DUES ARE IMPORTANT!! They support the PPA in these ways:

- Greeter Program
- PPA website
- Newsletter
- Annual meeting refreshments
- Memorial gifts
- FOVLAP membership

Have you paid your dues and don't have your directory? Email Martha Winston @ mwinston54@yahoo.com and she will mail you your copy.



WATER DRAW DOWN FOR 2022-2023

This winter, we should expect Green Mountain Power to follow the guidelines of the Peacham Pond Plan they shared with us in January, 2020. In that plan, the water in the pond will be drawn down 6.5 feet, or less, below normal operating level, during the month of December. The full plan is attached below.

If you have questions, our contact person at GMP is Kristin Kelly:

(kristin.kelly@greenmountainpower.com)

This plan will impact most homeowners. We may have ice closer to our docks, boat lifts and other structures along the shoreline. This is supposed to be positive for the environment of the pond, but it will bring some major changes for docks and other structures



New Peacham Pond Requirements[1].pdf

[Download](#)

28.2 KB

RWVL PETITION

The citizen's group Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes (RWVL) submitted a petition to the Vermont DNR in the summer of 2022. This petition is moving through the steps of hearings and reviews that are required by the state of Vermont. Our association wrote a letter supporting this petition. The petition asks that wake boats be regulated to operate on larger bodies of water where they can be far enough from the shoreline to prevent erosion and disruption of other water activities.

You can read the most recent newsletter from the RWVL group and find out about the state's process in the document attached below.



Communication Sept 22.pdf

[Download](#)

712.0 KB



WORKING ON YOUR SHORELINE?

If you are planning to build, remodel, cut trees, or do other work close to your shoreline, please use the Shoreland Handbook before you start. Many activities close to the lakeshore are now restricted or need special permitting. These restrictions help keep our pond healthier and encourage best practices as landowners.

https://dec.vermont.gov/sites/dec/files/wsm/lakes/docs/Shoreland/lp_ShorelandHandbook.pdf

PPA BOARD – 2022

President - Martha Winston - mwinston54@yahoo.com

Vice-President - John Weaver - johnweaver@weaverprinting.com

Treasurer - Greg Crossan - gscshop@gmail.com

Secretary - Pat Wiedel - pkwiedel@gmail.com

Road Committee - Ryan Chapell - rtchapell81@gmail.com

Road Committee - John Guilmette - johnr.guilmette@gmail.com

Town Liaison - Allen Freund - allenfreund123@gmail.com

Board Member - Greg Matuson - gmatuson@comcast.net

MINUTES – PPA 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

Agenda

Peacham Pond Annual Meeting

July 30, 2022 - Hafner/Boswell Camp

Welcome

Introduction of all attending: Members introduced themselves and shared where on the lake they live.

Thank you: Aggie and Luke Boswell and Charlie and Marion Hafner for hosting. (Flowers)
Board members, spouses and volunteers who helped today.

Recognition of Board Members for 2021:

President - Martha Winston

VP - John Weaver

Treasurer - Greg Crossan

Secretary - Pat Wiedel

Road Committee - Ryan Chapell and John Guilmette

Town Liaison - Allen Freund

Highlights of our Year

- PPA Merchandise - thanks to Ryan Chapell and Jaime Guilmette for working with Cardinal Enterprises to design and print and now sell the new t-shirts and hats. Katherine Nelson is helping sell on the west side. Please put your name in the raffle if you've not already done so, to get a free item!
- 2022 PPA Directory – Many thanks to John Weaver and his company, Weaver Printing for working with our advertisers, designing and printing our pond directory. We attempted to update our PPA spreadsheet and be 100% accurate - I'm certain we failed! Please keep us up-to-date as addresses and emails change.
- We reached out to the Caladonia County Natural Resources Conservation District for some potential funding. Currently, we have not received funding from them, but we had our first Lakewise visit from Emily Finnegan. She and Martha visited Mark Milazzo's camp in late May. He will qualify for a Lakewise Award! She is back to evaluate Rick Scholes/Annette Lorraine's camp on August 9th. Emily also found some funds to work on the boat ramp and try to solve some drainage and parking issues. You will see that work being done in the coming year.

New slate of officers for 2022

President - Martha Winston

VP - John Weaver

Treasurer - Greg Crossan

Secretary - Pat Wiedel

Road Committee - Ryan Chapell and John Guilmette

Town Liaison - Allen Freund

New board member: Greg Matuson

The Matuson family resides in southern New Jersey. Greg is a senior executive at a local community Bank. Priscilla is a retired high school English teacher and homeschools their two teenage daughters Ainsley and Sydney. They plan on utilizing their camp year-round.

Vote for new PPA board: motion/2nd/discussion/vote

A moment of silence was offered in honor of our Peacham Pond neighbors who passed away this year:

Stanley Flink - donation to VINS Nature Center

Judy Oro - donation to Vermont Center for Ecostudies

Gary Hudson - donation to PPA

Treasurer Report: Greg Crossan

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the 2021 Annual Meeting were published in the fall newsletter and are available on the sign-in table.

Vote to approve passed.

Road Committee Report: Ryan Chapell

Ryan shared the winter was a trying year for those year-round on the lake. The town currently bids out the work for the winter. Due to budget cuts, the town was unable to mow both sides of the road this year. Hopefully, the town will be able to rent a mower next year or collaborate with another town. Some potential light work might be done in late fall. The roads were graded in late spring. Ryan will continue to work with Jeremy at Peacham Town as needs arise.

Kevin H. shared his frustration with roads, as much tax money is given from our camps and roads are the primary service we receive as a result.

Seth shared that on Rt. 232 the new strategy is to open-up the roads to let more sunlight in to dry out the roads and prevent limbs from falling on the roads.

Another concern was expressed by Mo regarding the condition of Rt. 232. Chuck shared work is slated to be done on this over the summer...approximately 6 miles. Ryan's understanding is that only culverts will be done this year, and the road work later on.

Ryan will share the contact number for concerns on Rt. 232 so pond members may follow-up with concerns.

Loon Report: Courtesy of Rick Scholes

"Our Peacham loons were not successful this year. GMP's lake water levels, six or seven inches above the 2020 level, should not have been a problem. Decreasing water quality, increasing wake activity from more (pontoon!) boats going faster in the early summer, climate change, change in fish population (Bass dietary preferences leaving less nutrition for loons?), the fact there are three pairs trying to nest in the space that formerly supported two, plus unknown causes could be contributing. I don't think the eagle and osprey cause the problem, at least not on their own. The southwest pair did try to nest but as far as I know no chick

resulted. I didn't find a chick during my July 16th loon count. The "loon island" in the north arm of the lake also lost its small tree nesting birds. No idea why or if this is at all related."

Water Quality Report: Martha Winston and James Taffel

1. Lay Monitor Program

Janice Guilmette and Pat Wiedel - 2nd year for this team and 21st year we have been sampling the water. Each year the water samples become part of our Lake Scorecard. The scorecard tracks levels of phosphorus, chlorophyll and water clarity. You can view our Scorecard on the DEC website. All Vermont lakes are seeing rising levels of phosphorus - possibly from warmer water temperatures. Higher phosphorus encourages more algae and plant growth.

1. Greeter Program

This is our fifth summer. Priscilla McCormick-Sampson is still with us. She is working four hours on Fridays and eight hours Saturday, Sunday and holidays. We are fortunate to have Priscilla - she is well trained, personable and very reliable. We have raised her compensation to \$15/hour this year and will be paying her for mileage as a bonus.

Our DEC Greeter grant was reduced again - it has fallen about \$500 each year. This year we received \$2,771. We utilized this funding for Priscilla's wages. She will be paid \$5330 this year. We need to cover the remaining \$2,559 plus about \$560 for mileage. Allen Freund and Martha will meet with the Peacham Select Board to request funding. They have supported us in the past. Members were asked to consider making a contribution to the Greeter Fund to help cover our wonderful greeter and to support the health of the lake.

Priscilla greeted 274 boats by the end of July, 2022. About 2/3 of them were non-motorized and about 1/3 were outboards. She's had a rising problem with disrespectful visitors. These visitors are not respecting the state rules for use of the boat access. If you have a minute over a weekend, please stop by and show Priscilla some support!

1. VIP Program -

Jim Taffel shared his experience with the VIP program. 2021 was our first summer to have VIPs on the pond. Five people were trained and four got a chance to paddle and report the aquatic plants they encountered. Noticing any unusual looking aquatic plants is the VIPs job, especially anything that might be an invasive species. Basically, you take a photo of any new plants you don't recognize and forward these to the state. They'll identify these and get back to us if there's a concern. No invasives have been seen so far! We are all hopeful that changing the lake level does not impact invasive species' growth. The plants provide oxygen for photosynthesis, and the loons and fish love the pond weed. Some of the plants filter the water and help keep it clean. The bryozoan is a unique plant that resembles contorted cotton-candy and is actually very helpful in filtering the water.

Repairing and updating septic systems, refraining from fertilizing, and keeping rooted plants along the shoreline are all opportunities to support our water quality.

Training is available every summer - we welcome new volunteers or call and come out for a paddle with one of us. Current VIPs are Nancy Dickson, Jim Taffel, Patti Taffel, Mark Milazzo and Martha Winston.

New Business

FOVLAP (Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds) is looking for interested people to join their board. They have a new, vigorous president and are newly dedicated to outreach and education for everyone who enjoys and uses the water. Their annual meeting coming up on September 8th. Visit their website to learn more. Kevin Hudson expressed an interest in becoming involved with FOVLAP.

PPA voted to support *Wake Boat Petition* that was submitted to the State of Vermont DEC. Martha heard from over 20 camp owners in support of the petition. There was one dissent and two individuals opposed to regulations in general. If the state regulation passes, boats with *filled* ballast-tanks would be banned from Peacham Pond due to the size of our lake and the environmental repercussions they can cause.

Several participants shared their thoughts on the wake-boat regulations, with several expressing concerns regarding government regulations. Martha shared the wake-boat regulation legislation was brought to the state via a concerned-citizens committee. Martha will continue to update pond-owners as information becomes available.

Tim shared his thoughts on *taxes and property appraisals*. (He purchased John Cookson's camp.) His camp is assessed at twice its previous value. In reviewing appraisals, he sees inconsistencies in what the Listers have done after visiting properties. Tim shared several inconsistencies with the Town Clerk and feels other lake-owners should become involved. Tim is involved in working with others on this issue, some of whom who used an attorney to present their case.

Special volunteers were recognized for their work to support the PPA: Jaime Guilmette, Katherine Nelson and Jane Robinson

A single raffle ticket was pulled...the winner received a new PPA t-shirt and hat!

Meeting Adjourned

Minutes respectfully submitted by *Patricia Wiedel, Secretary*