

Spring 2015



Province Lake Association Newsletter

Message from the President

WE DID IT – survived the very cold and snowy winter. It was a great winter for skiers, snowmobilers and fuel companies.

In mid April there was only a small patch of blue water on the northeastern side of our lake –within a week the lake changed from white to BLUE again. Now all it needs to do is get warm enough to get in without a wet suit.

PLA Highlights this spring are increased Lake Host coverage and water sampling frequency, the approval of our second EPA/DES grant (Phase one of implementation which will be focused on installing erosion and septic fixes), and continuing fund raising events including the sale of newly designed PLA shirts and hats. Details below.....

Our 2015 annual meeting will be at Province Lake Golf Club on July 18th from 9 am - 12 noon– see you there!

Be part of the legacy,

Pete Dinger
President PLA

May 2015

Stay current on all happenings around Province Lake at www.provincelake.org.
[Like Us on Facebook – Province Lake Association](#)

Our Lake and Watershed Plan by Pete Dinger

We are entering into Phase 1 of implementation grants. As you know, our first grant (2012-2014) provided the resources for us to quantify the amount of phosphorus and other pollutants in the lake, determine the percent coming from erosion/runoff and septic sources and set long term goals for improving the water quality. This next grant will allow us to install a few BMP's (Best Management Practices – installed projects that will reduce or eliminate pollution sources). For this phase, our partner the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) has agreed to manage this next round of grant monies. One of the first tasks will be to identify a contractor that can develop a road improvement plan for Route 153 and Bonnyman Road. We will have a two year period to complete the tasks that are part of that grant proposal.

Our Lake and Watershed - Next steps for PLA!! By Linda Schier, AWWA

Clean Lake Action on Province!

Here at AWWA we are very excited to be launching into the first phase of fixing problems on Province Lake. The Province Lake Watershed Management Plan, published last fall, provides guidelines for what needs to be done to and bring the lake back to a healthy state. AWWA successfully applied for a grant from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services to begin implementing recommendations from the plan.

With our partners at the Province Lake Association, NH Dept. of Environmental Services, the towns, and all of you around the lake we are geared up for some terrific action to protect water quality. Here's a quick look at the activities we'll be guiding as part of this project:

- AWWA's Program Manager, Sam Wilson, is ready and eager to provide site specific landscape designs to help you make your property more lake-friendly. Just give him a call at 603/473-2500 or email swilson@AWwatersheds.org to set up an appointment for a free consultation. In addition, the AWWA Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) can install attractive erosion control features on properties around the lake based on the designs Sam develops. Sam can give you the details about this terrific program as well.
- Troublesome Bonnyman Road and Route 153 are getting some much needed attention. AWWA will contract with an engineering firm to develop a road management plan for both roads that will define specific remedies for the unmanaged stormwater runoff that is flowing into the lake across these roads. A public forum will be held to present those recommendations to the public.
- We are working with the PLA to arrange for neighborhood septic pump out discounts so be on the lookout for more info.
- Based on the septic survey results from last summer, AWWA will be offering free septic evaluations to those with systems considered high risk due to age, proximity to the lake and maintenance history.
- We are piloting a newly designed cyanobacteria monitoring program and will be asking for volunteer "bloom watchers" around the lake to alert us when a bloom is present so we can take samples and analyze them. Watch for the email with the details.
- Volunteer water quality monitor extraordinaire, Steve Craig, is working diligently with UNH to gather water samples from tributaries and the lake to keep a close eye on any changes in the water chemistry.

We will keep you up-to-date through the PLA and AWWA websites. Do stop and say hi if you see our YCC crew working in your neighborhood.

Other Province Lake Program Reports

Water testing Report, by Steve Craig

Samplings are being taken seven months of the year (April thru October) at four tributaries; Dam Outlet, the South River at Route 153, the Campground on Remick Road, and the Island Inlet, and three storm water runoff locations. In addition, a deep water sampling is done each month. Nitrogen level and temperature have been added to the testing. The tests done by the University of New Hampshire on each sample are: Alkalinity, Apparent Color, Dissolved Oxygen, Nitrogen, Oxidation Reduction, pH, Phosphorus , Conductance, Temperature and Turbidity. This year we are also taking storm event samples with possible E.coli analysis if warranted. Additionally, with the valuable help of AWWA we may be able to have special tools to monitor cyanobacteria.

Lake Host Program Report, by Pete Dinger

The PLA is using some of the money from member contributions to expand the Lake Host program by adding one full day per week. The Lake Host program, coordinated by NHLakes and partially funded by NHLakes as well as the towns of Effingham and Wakefield, has successfully kept invasive aquatic species out of our water. Plants like Eurasian Milfoil would totally take over our shallow lake in little over a year, if they were allowed to enter our water.

Jon, Julie and Randy Bachelder, will be the primary paid Lake Host inspectors for their fourth year starting on Memorial Day weekend. They will be at the Towle Farm launch ramp from 8-6 every Friday Saturday, Sunday and now Monday, in addition to the entire week of Fourth of July and concluding after Labor Day weekend.

By now most of you are familiar with the drill..... inspect both your boat and trailer for any signs of weeds, grass, mussels etc. going in and out of the water. I know that a few people become irritated by this short delay, but PLEASE work with our Lake Host inspectors. It is a difficult job to stay by the ramp day after day, in sun, heat and rain, but via their work, Province, unlike a number of neighboring lakes, remains free of invasive aquatic species of all types. If you launch at another location, such as the campground, the lake is dependent upon your personal diligence to assure that you are launching a vessel that is totally clean of any debris. With all boaters cooperation, at the end this season we will once again be able to say that we are Milfoil (and other invasive species) free.

There is always room for trained volunteers to fill any monitoring gaps that might occur or provide additional coverage – If you want to volunteer send a message to president@provincelake.org

Weed Watching Update by Pete Dinger

It is hard to not notice the bright green plant growth to the left of the Towle Farm Boat Ramp. Steve Craig (our water sampling and local invasive species expert) took samples that were sent to NH Department of Environmental Services Limnologist and Exotic Species Program Coordinator, Amy Smagula for identification. The conclusion is that what we have is Water Starwort, a native plant in New Hampshire.

Starwort is not very common across NH, but it is a good oxygenator, uses up nutrients that would otherwise be used by algae (which could reduce water clarity) and provides habitat for fish and other aquatic life. It may establish itself in small scattered patches but only gradually over a long time. It is very unlikely that it will ever become a significant plant component of Province Lake.

Wildlife update by Damaris Rohsenow

Since the ice went out April 16, water critters have been returning. Three loons have been seen, a couple and a solo one. At least 9 Canada geese have been seen swimming on the lake. A resident who took zoo training in frog identification reports full choruses of peepers, American toads (early for them), and Pickerel frogs already. A mature bald eagle has been seen sitting on the front edge of the nest they have been using for a couple of years on Point Road. The nest appears to be reinforced and bigger – perhaps in preparation for an expanded family.

Dam Report, by Tucker Vye

The lake's water level this winter and spring has been low enough so ice/erosion damage has been at a minimum. The South River outlet has remained high all winter and remains high this spring probably due to the massive winter snow and melting of the snow pack. This high level has not adversely affected the lake level. There is no apparent beaver activity presently – this will be monitored going into the summer. The dam log placement has been completed. It was done a bit early this year due to the dry spell causing the water level to drop already.

Membership Report, by Mindy Schuman-Vye

This year has been another great year in regard to membership. There are currently 140 paid PLA memberships, an increase of 28 individuals/families over last year. We have collected a total of \$3,500 in membership dues and \$1,975 in extra donations for a total of \$5,475. We thank those that support the PLA with more than their \$25 dues, and hope that in 2015 additional members will join the 38% of our members already doing so.

Our 2015 membership drive is in process. If you have ever been a member please rejoin – your continuing help and involvement will restore Province to its former glory and assure that it will be a beautiful resource for many generations in the future. If you have not joined in the past now is a great time to do so.

PLA is a 501(c)3 charitable organization and as such all donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law. Our EIN is 23-7337832.



Third Annual PLA Breakfast

Fund Raising: Fourth Annual PLA Breakfast, by Carl and Donna Davis

July 4th, 2015 8:00 – 11:00

Yes! Yes! Another PLA Breakfast this year! Mark your calendars. Don't miss it! We hope all of you that came last year return again this year. We also want your friends and neighbors to join in the fun. So please help to spread the word! Yes, the food is fantastic, but the Breakfast is also about our lake community. Meet new friends, visit with old ones and learn new facts about things happening around our lake. Your support of this event is a fun easy way to share and celebrate the beauty that we need to protect for future generations. Visit our website for future details about the Breakfast and many other PLA events.

Treasurer's Report, by Thom Townsend

A number of years ago, a friend shared a quote with me:

If you want to know the truth about your priorities, just take a look at your checkbook and your calendar. Where are you spending your money? Where are you spending your time?

That quote has stuck with me for many years, - and our 2014 expenses clearly show the priorities of your PLA leadership team.

PLA funds on balance with Profile Bank (including both short and long term cash assets) on 1-1-15 were \$40.3K.

During 2014, PLA income from all sources was \$43.2K, while expenses were \$40.0K.

Major contributions to income came from:

- Members (dues and contributions) totaled \$5.9K
- State of NH grant: \$16.6K
- Towns of Wakefield & Effingham contributed \$4.0K
- Fundraising yielded \$3.2K (net)
- Trust fund grant: \$10.0K

Mary (Betty) Womboldt Memorial

In late 2014, Province Lake lost one of our long time friends. The Womboldt's had a house on Point Road in the 50's and raised 9 kids there. They loved the lake, had many friends here and Betty missed Province dearly when she went into assisted living. In her memory, family and friends have donated nearly \$600 to the PLA.

Newsletter editor: Damaris Rohsenow