

Lake Todd Times

Issue #11

July 2002

August Pot Luck Social

Bring family, friends, food and fun! Our August pot luck social will be held on Sunday, August 18, at noon. The rain date will be the following Sunday, August 25. Bill and Margie Weiler have graciously offered to be our hosts again, at the north end of the lake, 192 Gillingham Drive. Read about the history of their Gillingham Farm property in the latest *Soonipi Magazine*, available free at many locations in the area.

Please call Mary Lehoullier at 938-2406 and tell her what type of food you will bring: main dish, salad, dessert, etc. If you don't cook, you can offer to bring hot dogs, hamburgers, rolls, or whatever you like. Bring outdoor games, too, if you have any. We're going to have a great time!

Carol Tonkin

Village District

The LTA Board of Directors will be visiting the Granite Lake Association on July 24 to discuss their establishment of a Village District in order to obtain affordable insurance on their dam. As we discussed at the Annual Meeting, their history is very much like that of Lake Todd. We currently have no insurance on the dam. We have been told that we probably can't get insurance, and if we did it could cost as much as \$40,000. As a Village District, we would be eligible for affordable insurance from the NH Municipal Association. If you did not get a copy of the article on the Granite Lake Dam, please contact me at 938-2811, and I will get you a copy.

Carol Tonkin

Wildlife News

Loon Time. A birth announcement is in order for Lake Todd residents. Two loon chicks were born on June 29th or 30th. We can't be sure of the exact time, but we know they were born soon after the Lake Todd Annual Meeting.

The babies are diving and following their parents, and their parents park them all over the lake while they take a swim or dive for more food. They seem healthy and are growing, and they are brown in color. At this stage they depend upon their parents a great deal. Sometimes they ride on the backs of their parents, but are mostly swimming on their own.

We also have visiting loons a few times a week. So far they appear to be friendly and have left our loon family alone. When boat traffic is heavy, the loons move to safer havens on the lake. They are really very intelligent birds. Let's hope we can keep both chicks this year!

An Unexpected Visitor. A bear walked down Gillingham Drive and into our driveway between our garage and woodpile on Sunday, July 7, around 9:30 a.m. He was full grown and seemed friendly enough. Ray went into the garage armed with a golf club to keep the bear from getting into our garbage can, but after a short conversation the bear went up the hill, through our garden and up into the woods. It's the first time we've seen a bear in our yard for 52 years. Moose and deer, yes, but a bear, no! What fun to live here. Keep watchful eyes; you never know what you will see!

Allene Hamilton

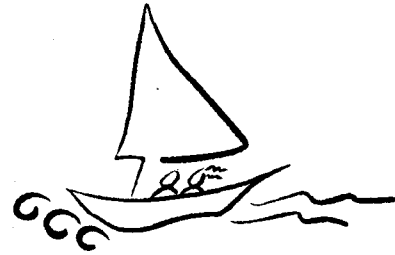


Annual Meeting

About 50 people attended our annual meeting on June 29. We had lively discussions about a number of important issues, including liability insurance for the dam, milfoil, and weed control. We will keep you informed about these and other issues through the newsletter, and the minutes of the meeting will be mailed to all residents before the next annual meeting. Thank you to Allene Hamilton for providing the wonderful coffee and refreshments.

Norma Murphy

Neighbors on the Lake



Bob and Joanne Wirta have lived on Lake Todd since 1976. Bob is a retired teacher-coach. He taught at Hopkinton High School for 33 years. Joanne is retired and worked for 23 years as Activity Director at Hillsboro House Nursing Home in Hillsboro, NH. They have two daughters, Karen and Kristen, and they also have two granddaughters to enjoy. Bob and Joanne summer in New Hampshire and Nova Scotia and winter in Florida.

Bob and Joanne love the lake and its beauty, the sunsets, the mountain views and their neighborhood. Bob also loves fishing. He catches bass and pickerel and usually throws them back to catch again another day. He remembers catching one disfigured fish on Thursday, throwing it back, and catching it again on Sunday. Joanne remembers visiting the lake as a little girl when there were very few cottages. Gillingham Drive was called Frog St. and Lake Todd was Todd Pond!

Bob used to camp on the islands as a boy with his dad and brother and fish all day. He remembers ice fishing as a little boy with his dad and uncle, and the time he tried to keep a pickerel that was a little short of the prescribed limit. He pushed it under the ice when a Game Warden appeared, frightened that the Warden would find it and send him to jail. The Warden didn't find it, but after they left his father and uncle remonstrated him and said, "What were you thinking of? We could have lost our licenses and wouldn't have been able to take you fishing again. Don't ever do that again!" Bob said it was a good lesson, and one he has always remembered!

Allene Hamilton

Weed Watchers

So far, approximately 20 people have signed up to be Weed Watchers, and we'd love to have more of you sign up. All it involves is a monthly check by snorkeling or by boat in your assigned area to ensure there are no exotic weeds taking root in the lake. This process enabled Lake Sunapee to identify variable milfoil before it had spread very far. Divers pulled up roots and they spread heavy duty plastic mats over the area to block the sun from the weeds. They'll know soon if it is working.

We are currently trying to schedule some training in identifying weeds, and on Monday, July 22, some of us will be visiting Lake Massasecum to observe their milfoil problem. Marcia Keller from Lake Massasecum has graciously offered her assistance in getting our weed watcher program started.

Carol Tonkin

Have you had a chance . . .

to pay your maintenance dues? If not, you can send your check for \$25.00, payable to the Lake Todd Association, to P.O. Box 169, Bradford, NH 03221.

Thank you to everyone who has paid!

Safety Signage

After two years, the State has finally installed the "No Wake" sign at the bridge. The DES Dam Bureau has also sent us a guidebook of safety dam signage, and assures us that the Dam Bureau has no rules concerning dam warning signs, but they do encourage them, and it may eventually become a requirement. We have put a temporary sign just before the dam, and Carey Rodd has agreed to mark his dock with a dam warning sign. David Paine, Dam Committee Chairman, will be installing some sort of sign on the dam itself as soon as he reads the entire manual (It's only 104 pages long!). Please advise your visitors that the dam can be dangerous and they should not get too close.

Flare Night

Wasn't Flare Night beautiful this year? Fireworks shooting off from beaches, a group of flares being towed by a boat, and the flares glowing from properties all around the lake contributed to a wonderful celebration of Lake Todd.

Congratulations!



Skip Tonkin has received his free resident lifetime New Hampshire hunting and fishing license. The occasion was his 68th birthday on July 14. Skip has purchased a license every year since he was 16, but it is free from now on.

Congratulations, Skip!



Boating Safety and Certification

The Marine Patrol Officer tells me that the violations he observes most on Lake Todd are the lack of approved Type I, II, III or V life jackets. He recently gave a warning to two kayakers because they didn't have life jackets. ALL boats (motor boats, canoes, kayaks, paddle boats) must have one wearable life jacket for each person on board. Children 5 or younger must wear a life jacket at all times and each person being towed behind a boat must also wear a life jacket. The life jacket must be of the proper size for the intended wearer and in good condition.

Remember, you must be 150 feet from another boat, dock, float, swimmer and shore (including the islands). Violations of this rule are the most common violations that I have observed.

You must also have a spotter for each person being towed. The spotter must be a PERSON at least 13 years old. One former person on the lake used a dog as a spotter, and I don't think he was even 13!

The operator of a boat powered by more than 25 HP must be at least 16, unless he or she is accompanied by a person 18 or older who has a valid Safe Boater Education Certificate. Everyone who operates a boat powered by more than 25 HP will have to obtain a Safe Boater Education Certificate according to the following schedule:

If born on or after January 1,	Certificate required by January 1,
1983	2002 (NOW)
1977	2003
1973	2004
1967	2005
1963	2006
1957	2007
All	2008

There is a Boating Safety Course in Concord on August 3 from 9:00 to 4:30 at the Department of Safety Building. There is also a class in Hanover at the Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center on July 27 from 9:00 to 4:30. There is 1/2 hour for lunch at both of these classes. You may call 1-888-254-2125 for more information. You may also take a complete study course and the online exam over the internet. Look up the web site at www.boat-ed.com/nh. Another option is through a video and instruction manual in the convenience of your home with a mail-in test. Call 1-800-830-2268 for more information.

If you see boating violations, you may want to talk to the person first, and if you have no cooperation, call the Marine Patrol Dispatch at 1-877-642-9700.

Carol Tonkin

Watch Your Kayaks!

Two more kayaks have been reported missing and probably stolen from property on the lake. Watch your boats, and do your neighbors a favor by keeping an eye on their boats when they are not there. If you see anything suspicious, notify your local police department. Also, make a note of the serial numbers of any and all the boats you have so they can be more easily identified if found.

Products That Pollute

The question was raised at the Annual Meeting about which products can increase the phosphorus level in the lake. Our Treasurer, Daphne Lessard is currently researching this subject, but when I was at the Walmart recently, I checked out some of the dishwasher detergents. What I found surprised me. I have been using one of the worst products in terms of phosphorus. Look at these figures and decide for yourself, but I am going to change to Palmolive Gel.

<u>Product</u>	<u>% of Phosphorus</u>
Cascade Complete—powder	7.74
Cascade Complete—gel	6.5
Cascade—powder	7.4
Cascade—gel	4.5
Electrosol—powder	6.1
Electrosol—gel	4.5
Sunlight—powder	4.5
Sunlight—gel	4.3
Palmolive—gel	1.6

Next month we will give a more complete report on products that are safest for the lake.

Carol Tonkin

Steele Road Problem

At the Annual Meeting, concern was expressed about the project on Steele Road to control the flooding. A year ago last winter, Steele Road was so flooded that the town of Bradford put in a 15" pipe under the road and raised the road by a considerable amount. This moved more of the flooding into the Vitale yard and his 4" pipe did not control it. I attended a meeting at the property on the Monday morning after our annual meeting. Peter Fenton, Selectman from Bradford; Tony Vitale, owner of the property; Kenny Lyman, KDL Construction; and Earl Chase, Wetlands Bureau, attended this meeting. Mr. Vitale had been told last year that he didn't need a permit to put in the pipe to pump water from his flooded yard into the lake as long as he didn't penetrate the banking with the pipe. He wants to install a 15" pipe, the same size as the town put in under the road. Mr. Chase told him he did have to have a permit, and he cannot continue with the project until he does. Also, he cannot pump the wetland dry, and there are several other requirements involved in getting the permit. Mr. Vitale can, however, try to unplug the existing 4" pipe as a temporary measure until he gets the permit, which can take up to three months. Please be assured that Mr. Vitale will work with the Wetlands Bureau to try to complete this project within their guidelines.

If you see anyone you think is violating the wetlands laws, you may call the Wetlands Bureau at the Department of Environmental Services at 603-271-1969.

Carol Tonkin