



~ Fall Newsletter November 2013 ~

Hello Lake Armington Folks,

It is late fall in the North Country with bare trees on Piermont Mountain, and a chill wind racing across the water. We have some interesting late-season news to report....

Lake Level Fall Drawdown

For the first time in at least 20 years, the State of NH has lowered the Lake Armington's water level by about 3 feet, making for an exposed rocky and weedy shoreline. The drawdown put pressure on late season boaters and homeowners whose water systems draw from the lake. All this to replace worn out 'stoplogs' (aka boards) in the spillway at the dam on October 24. Four days later the lake had come up by 8 inches at the dam, so said the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) dam operations engineer who Polly Tafrate and I had the good fortune to encounter at the dam during an afternoon walk. See the Lake Armington Association website for photos at www.lakearmington.org.

DSL Update

At last! Fairpoint Communications is completing installation of its DSL communications equipment in November that will provide DSL service from the Warren central office for folks at the lake and along Cape Moonshine Road with a 764 exchange. We've been told it should be up and running by late November, we hope, and it's all part of a larger state-wide rollout. Look for a notice in your November Fairpoint bill on pricing and availability. Finally!

Emergency 911 Services in Eastern Piermont

LAA board member Carlos Manrique voiced concerns on the need for faster 911 emergency ambulance response time in our area with the Piermont Board of Selectmen in September, citing an incident on Cape Moonshine Road. Since then numerous year-round and seasonal residents at lakes Armington and Tarleton and along Cape Moonshine Road have written letters asking the Piermont Board of Selectmen to look at ways of providing faster 911 response. Please write a letter, the address is: Piermont Board of Selectmen, P.O. Box 67 Piermont, NH 03779, or send email to piermontbos@gmail.com.

Logging Activity Update

Hikers on Piermont Mountain expressed concerns this summer about logging operations, that for a time blocked established trails. This winter, hikers, snow shoers and x-c skiers should remain alert as logging activity continues in the area.

Invasive Species Infestation Update – New Hampshire and Vermont

Two lakes in NH and three in VT have reported new invasive weed infestations this year, while not in our immediate area, the threat of invasive species contaminating our lake is very real.

The pace of lakes in NH being infected with invasive weeds may be changing. According to NHDES' Amy Smagula "the big picture is that it has slowed over the last 15 years, due to education and awareness, and volunteer efforts at early detection. Most new infestations are found at the single stem or small clump level now, and never even make the list as divers can quickly and efficiently remove any new growth quickly, usually in one visit."

Yet invasive species, *both plants and animals*, continue their spread and require our continued vigilance. This summer a Lake Tarleton Lake Host reported an invasive Chinese Mystery snail "on the cement pad of the boat launch, not in the lake." NHDES later confirmed its identity. See www.laketarletonassociation.com.

NH Lakes' Lake Host program addresses these changing threats in their "Clean, Drain & Dry" program that debuted this year. Aquatic animals, such as Chinese Mystery snail, zebra mussel and Asian clam, can travel on boats and gear in their *larval form* and are nearly impossible to see, much less remove by hand.

Effective prevention means 'cleaning, draining, and drying' boats and gear, using water under pressure and sun-drying for 5 days. See www.nhlakes.org and the Lake Host page at www.lakearmington.org.

Infested Water Bodies near Lake Armington as of November 2013 include:

NEW HAMPSHIRE	VERMONT
Post Pond (Lyme)	Lake Morey (Fairlee)
Mascoma Lake (Enfield)	Lake Fairlee (Fairlee)
Lake Sunapee (George's Mills)	Ompompanoosuc River (Thetford, W. Fairlee)
Squam Lakes (Ashland, Holderness)	Round Pond (Newbury)
Lake Winnepesaukee (many towns)	Hall's Lake (Newbury)
Connecticut River (many towns)	Ticklenaked Pond (Ryegate)
Lake Wentworth (Wolfeboro)	Lake Willoughby (Westmore)
Lake Winnisquam (many towns)	Lake Champlain (many towns)

Lake Host Program

The Lake Armington Lake Host program did a solid job protecting the lake from invasive species this year by performing 228 boat inspections at the public launch, operating part-time on weekends and holidays from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

Motor boats, kayaks, and canoes came to the lake mostly from NH and VT (78% of boat inspections). And if this year's boaters were like last year's, the majority came in kayaks and canoes (about 80% in 2012). Of course, all watercraft and gear can carry invasive species.

Funding for the Lake Host program comes from Lake Armington Association (through your donations) and small grants from NH Lakes and the Town of Piermont. Funds cover paid Lake Host time, membership in NH Lakes (required for program participation) and incidental expenses such as Lake Host T-shirts. Lake Host volunteers allow us to extend coverage beyond our funding limitations, a must-do every year!

Bottom line: Lake Armington's protection by Lake Host coverage depends on your tax-deductible donations and your volunteer participation.

The more dollars you donate, the more hours you volunteer, the more Lake Armington is protected.

Help us extend Lake Host coverage to 7 days a week next season through donations and/or volunteer time!

Weed Watcher Program

Program Leader Evie Conroy tells us we had 7 volunteer Weed Watchers in 2013 to help safeguard Lake Armington by looking for invasive plants and animals along the lake shores out to a depth of around 10 feet (the deepest they can see much on the lake bottom).

Early in the season they received training from Amy Smagula of NHDES at our public boat launch. This is a free service. The lake was divided into 14 sections and each volunteer inspected her selected area at least 3 times. A color map of the lake showing water-depth contours and locations of the public and other private boat launch sites guided their efforts. See www.lakearmington.org, Weed Watch page, LAA Weed Watchers Map.

The Weed Watcher Team responded to calls from two residents with concerns about plants in front of their properties. Specimens were collected and sent to NHDES' Amy Smagula for identification. Both were identified as native plants. Linda Kline checked two areas of concern underwater and found the plants to be our native bladderwort.

I think the most important development with the Weed Watcher program this year is the commitment and teamwork demonstrated by the Weed Watcher volunteers. And that lake residents can look for identifying shirts or hats on the Weed Watcher folks next year.

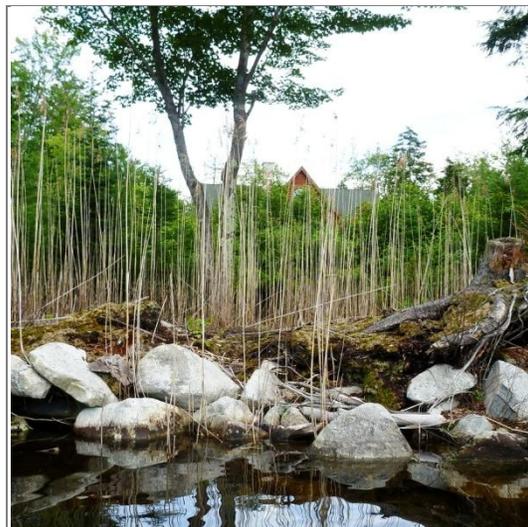
Water Quality Testing Program

Water Quality testing done by Mike Poole and his team showed very good results this year, and the August e. coli tests in 5 spots around the lake had normal readings. The average for transparency was 6.68 meters, better than it has been in past years.

Common Reed (Phragmites) Eradication

Common Reed (Phragmites) eradication continued in September with the second of three annual treatments along the Palmucci shoreline and so far appears to be successful (see photo below).

A second infestation was discovered near the first, and we've begun a second treatment project on this one as well. The Common Reed is highly invasive and left un-checked will overwhelm large and small water bodies quite rapidly.



Phragmites stalks in July 2013 after treatment

Support of Members and Friends

Many thanks to our 2013 LAA members and donors for your generous support this year. The Lake Armington Association is in sound financial condition with funds necessary to complete our current obligations and pursue our mission of stewardship and environmental education within appropriate financial limits.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who've helped immeasurably this year, especially:

Wendy Cahill – Lake Host

Brad Caswell – Picnic table and much, much more

Kurt Davis – Landscaping, mowing at boat launch

Steve Seifert – Printing services

If you joined us at the Annual Meeting in August, you may have seen some new faces. Membership has increased by 15% this year over last, and the number of people making donations is also up by nearly 20%.

Yet only 27% of our potential donors (property owners, family members and friends of the lake) have made a tax-deductible donation this year.

I believe we can do better than this. We can reach 50% participation if more folks step up!

So I ask, if you have not yet made a donation in 2013, I invite you to do so now.



Low water level at the dam, October 27

Making a Donation*

Donate via our website www.lakearmington.org, on the Dues/Donate page, or

Send a check for any amount to:

Lake Armington Association

P.O. Box 143

Piermont, NH 03779

All donations are fully tax-deductible, and greatly appreciated.

*Don't remember if you've paid dues or donated this year? Member and Donor lists are at www.lakearmington.org on the Dues/Donate page.

What could we consider doing for Lake Armington with sufficient donations?

- Provide Lake Host coverage 7 days a week at the public boat launch during the season,
- Extend the Lake Host coverage to prime fishing hours, early AM and late PM,
- Build a 'War Chest' to fund potential future invasive species infestations,
- Continue to protect Lake Armington, and its property values, for future generation's enjoyment.



Shoreline at Crocker's with low water level, October 27

Your LAA Board of Directors welcomes your input!
Have a happy and healthy Holiday Season,

Alice Wellington, president

Polly Tafrate, vice president

Evie Conroy, treasurer

Sam Rounds, recording secretary

Lynn Dennison, corresponding secretary

Kurt Davis

Carlos Manrique

Shirley Nicol

Ann Soloway