



P.O. Box 143 Piermont, NH 03779  
www.lakearmington.org

## 2014 NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

### Hello Lake Armington Folks,

Autumn's bright foliage on Piermont Mountain has dimmed to November's grey and nearly unbroken silence. Here's the news from the Lake Association since our Annual Meeting in August.



### EMERGENCY RESPONSE & MANAGEMENT

At the LAA Annual Meeting, Colin Stubbings, Chairman of Piermont's Board of Selectmen, participated and heard our concerns about emergency response. Since then:

- The Piermont Fire Department brought their personnel and equipment to the lake to better understand the area, and more easily locate homes and cottages in an emergency.
- They also tested how well their pumper fire truck could navigate the narrow roads and turn around.
- Members of the Piermont FAST Squad and Emergency Management Department have expressed concern that properties around the lake are difficult to find, especially at night, presenting the greatest risk while being the least understood.
- Confusing road names and hard-to-see house numbers seriously hamper emergency response.
- *We've learned that in 2015 many house numbers and road names throughout town will change as Piermont implements the nationwide E911 property addressing scheme. The overall goal is to improve emergency services.*
- Lake Armington and Eastern Piermont are top priority and first in the roll-out. Emergency Management Director Bernie Marvin is in charge of the program. By the way, Bernie's own house number and street name have to be changed too!
- If and when we are asked to re-number our lake houses, use the 3" (or larger) reflective numbers placed to be readily visible from the road. This may save a life.
- As for cell phone service at the lake, the Piermont Board of Selectmen hosted a public meeting in September with State Senator Jeanie Forrester and State Telecommunications Specialist Carol Miller on the lack of cellular services in Eastern Piermont and its impact on emergency calling. Members of Lake Armington and Lake Tarleton associations attended.
- We learned the cell phone carriers will not provide cell service to sparsely populated rural areas, such as Lakes Armington and Tarleton, since they cannot recover or profit from the infrastructure investment (cell towers, equipment, power, site prep, etc.).
- There are no Federal or State laws to make them do otherwise. Lack of cellular service extends for many square miles throughout the North Country, impacting safety of hikers, hunters, ATV riders, swimmers and boaters.

## COMMON REED (PHRAGMITES) ERADICATION

In September Lycott Environmental Inc. did the final treatment and water test at the lake for the Common Reed Eradication, completing the project. This effort began three years ago after it was clear that the infestation which began on the Palmucci's shoreline had spread well beyond our ability to remove the plants by hand. We sought licensed, professional assistance and successfully eradicated the infestation at a cost of about \$7,000. Brad Caswell managed the project.

## WATER QUALITY TESTING

Lake Armington Water Quality testing was completed in July and August with the usual *very good results*. All are within State of NH guidelines. Lab testing is now done in Concord, so water samples must be taken there rather than to Plymouth. Our Water Quality testing is led by Mike Poole and is part of the State's Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP).

## LAKE HOST

The Lake Host program inspected watercraft at the public boat launch from Memorial Day through Labor Day again this year. *No invasive weeds were found on any of the boats inspected*. Coverage was Friday afternoons, and Saturday, Sunday and holiday Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We estimate three-quarters of the inspections were kayaks and canoes, and the rest power boats.

Many lakes, ponds and rivers in the area are contaminated with invasive species, often Eurasian or Variable Milfoil or Didymo (rock snot). Any water craft that visits these lakes and rivers can inadvertently carry invasive weeds and species into Lake Armington.

Our exposure goes beyond the public launch. Lake Armington property owners, guests or renters may return from a boat/kayak day trip elsewhere carrying weed fragments or invasive species on their gear, to be introduced into the lake right from their docks.

The Lake Host program remains the first line of defense against invasive weeds and species getting into the lake and is funded by the Lake Armington Association (through your donations), NH Lakes and the Town of Piermont. Camp Walt Whitman's volunteer CIT Lake Hosts allow us to extend coverage beyond our funding limitations, our thanks once again! Wendy Cahill has managed this program from the start in 2008.



## WEED WATCHERS – from Evie Conroy

Again this year, we can report that the Lake Armington Weed Watchers have found *no invasive aquatic plants in our lake*. That's great news.

Further, in response to lake residents' concerns, Weed Watchers checked near the dam for an aquatic plant growing abundantly among the hummocks. This was identified as *bladderwort*, a native plant that's become more prevalent in several parts of the lake.

Since 2012 Weed Watchers have identified three new native plants in the lake: *stonewort* (between the boat launch and narrows), *hedge hyssop* (near Camp Walt Whitman), and this year *three-way wedge* (at the northern end of the lake). All are non-invasive and not of concern.

Weed Watchers monitor the lake once a month from May through September, picking calm days when visibility into the lake is best. They move slowly around their assigned areas, from close to shore zigzagging out at least as far as sunlight penetrates to the bottom.

We have divided the lake into zones based on water depth with easier to check shallow areas being larger. See [www.lakearmington.org](http://www.lakearmington.org) for the Weed Watcher Map created by Brad Caswell and links to photos of invasive aquatic plants.

The Weed Watcher team includes Lynn DeMerchant, Lynn Dennison, Linda Kline, Linda Michelsen, Kathy Soloway, and Evie Conroy. Check out several links on the LAA website to help you identify aquatic plants.

*What you can do:* It would be ideal if all residents could get in the habit of checking the area in front of their properties. We encourage you to report any suspicious plants. We'll follow up immediately with the Department of Environmental Services and send in a specimen or photo for identification.

Weed Watching is a critical line of defense against invasive plants taking hold in our lake. We need to expand our Weed Watcher team. Please consider joining us. Training for new members takes place in the spring. Feel free to contact me with questions or concerns at econroy09@gmail.com.



### INVASIVE WEEDS IN LAKES AND RIVERS NEAR LAKE ARMINGTON

NEW HAMPSHIRE	VERMONT
Connecticut River	Lake Morey
Post Pond	Lake Fairlee
Lake Mascoma	Round Pond
Lake Sunapee	Hall's Lake
Squam Lakes	Ompompanoosuc River
Lake Winnepesaukee	Ticklenaked Pond
Lake Wentworth	Lake Willoughby
Lake Winnisquam	Lake Champlain

### AN LAA FUND-RAISING FIRST – LAKE ARMINGTON MUGS

Thanks to everyone who purchased one or more Lake Armington mugs to support LAA this summer. And a big thank-you goes to Carlos Manrique and the folks at the Four Corners Store in Piermont, who helped sell them for us as a fundraiser.

This fall Ann Soloway and Camp Walt Whitman asked their alumni to donate \$50 or more to LAA and receive a Lake Armington mug. CWW alumni response is greatly appreciated.

A limited number of Lake Armington mugs are still available for holiday gift giving, at \$10 per mug plus \$6 for shipping while supplies last. Contact Polly Tafrate (polly@tafrate.com) or Lynn Dennison (Radennison@aol.com) to order.

### THANKS TO MEMBERS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

LAA thanks our Members and Donors for their generous support in 2014. With your help LAA remains in sound financial condition with funds to complete our current stewardship and public education goals.

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

- Wendy Cahill – Lake Host
- Evie Conroy – Weed Watchers
- Mike Poole – Water Quality Testing
- Lynn DeMerchant & Kerrie Hoban – LAA Logo Design
- Brad Caswell – Comments and Suggestions

### SEND DUES AND DONATE NOW FOR 2014

There's still time. If you have not yet renewed your membership or sent your donation to LAA for 2014, we invite you to do so now.

### ON THE WEB

Pay dues or make donations on our website [www.lakearmington.org](http://www.lakearmington.org), on the Dues/Donate page, or

### BY CHECK

Pay dues (\$20 individual, \$40 couple, \$50 family) and make donations by check, send to:  
 Lake Armington Association, Inc.  
 P.O. Box 143  
 Piermont, NH 03779

The Lake Armington Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) public charity. We accept matching donations from your workplace. Our Federal ID # is 02-0351296. Your contributions are fully tax-deductible.

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

- Extend the Lake Host coverage to prime fishing hours, early morning and late afternoon,
- Extend Lake Host coverage to more week days during the season,
- Build a 'War Chest' to prepare for potential future invasive species eradication projects,
- Continue to protect Lake Armington, and its property values, for future generation's enjoyment.

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