



Granite Lake News

Working together to preserve our lake

June 2019

THE SEASON AHEAD

Photo by Anita Flanagan

We are fortunate to live in this beautiful part of the country. Whether paddling a kayak, walking through the woods, or simply looking at our magnificent New Hampshire scenery, we can put the cares of the world aside for a while and enjoy the pace and rhythms of the natural world.

However, changing climate conditions, excessive logging in our watershed areas and the spread of aquatic invasive plant species all threaten our lake. The Granite Lake Association (GLA), now in its 63rd year, exists as a voluntary association to serve Granite Lakes scenic, recreational and environmental interests by promoting the preservation and protection of its water quality and other natural resources.

We extend special thanks to Anita Flanagan for her tireless work managing the lake host program for the past five years. This program, funded by grant monies and the towns of Stoddard and Nelson is our

main line of defense against the spread of aquatic invasive plants. The (22) volunteers and (7) paid lake host inspectors handled (750) total inspections in 2018 (345 motor boats and 406 non motor craft). Going forward, the program is in the capable hands of Patricia Maden and Sharon O'Brien Iagulli.

To further protect our lake from silt and sediment pollution we joined with the Harris Conservation Center in a project to protect the Granite Lake Headwaters. This effort entailed the purchase of a (515) acre parcel of land located in the highlands of Stoddard. This property contains two headwater streams that directly feed Granite Lake via Nye Meadow. Protection of this land is vital to the future water quality of our lake. We are pleased to announce our fund raising efforts added much to the acquisition of this vital natural land resource.

This year we will continue to focus on drainage up-grades and continued maintenance of the roads around the lake. Working with the Nelson and Stoddard road agents and the DOT we hope to effectively reduce the flow of harmful sediments, nutrients and other pollutants that adversely affect water quality. To this end we must all be involved as good stewards of our properties, we all can do much to help this effort.

From all the members of the board and me, we wish you a safe, happy and healthy summer!

Please remember to visit our web page at granitelakenh.org for updates on current projects and items of interest around the lake. This resource is actively maintained for your benefit, we hope you find it useful.

Bill Steiniger

President GLA

Nesting Eagle Family

By Tyke Lavigne



Photo by Tyke Lavigne

AS many of you are aware, Granite Lake has the good fortune of having a pair of Eagles join the Loons.

Early last spring the Eagle pair decided to make a nest out on the island. It wasn't their full time home, as they would shuttle back and forth with nest materials and then be gone for several days. Apparently this was a test the first year because they didn't plan on a nursery in the nest design, and as a result they never settled down to raise a family. *This year has been different.*

I contacted Phil Brown, Director of Land Management of the NH Audubon. He was thrilled to hear that the pair of eagles had chosen Granite Lake to build a nest. Thus far they have not been able to see if the eagles are banded. Phil stopped by the lake on several occasions and fortunately caught the eagle's working on the nest. If not working on the nest one would just perch on the naked spire of tree.

Phil put us in contact with Chris Martin, Raptor Biologist of NH Audubon. Chris stated that we could expect to see them during the winter months doing periodic nest maintenance, assuming they were planning to return full time in the early months of 2019.

Again, this was witnessed but they would leave for days at a time.

It was mid to late March when we observed one of the Eagles in the nest full time. We could just see the top of her head, hunkered down in the nest. It was the first of May when we first noted that more of the body was visible and it appeared that it's position has moved from the far right of the nest toward the middle.

This information was conveyed to Chris and on May 15 when he swung by to look through his spotting scope. Based on the body position of the female eagle, he was quite confident that an egg or eggs had hatched! While observing the nest we were treated to the Eagle's mate dropping out of the sky with lunch, a partially eaten fish. Sure enough, a fuzzy little head popped up looking for a handout. Chris estimated that the chick was about two weeks old.

Chris stated that the little one will stay in the nest for approximately ten weeks. During this time the parents will be seen moving further away from the nest so they aren't constantly harassed for food from the chick.

Good Luck Eagles

A Road by Any Other Name

This summer step back in time, take a walk up Horse Hill Road as many others have done before you since its inception in 1791. The road starts at the beginning of the Old Camp Notre Dame Lodge and snakes its way into the forested areas beyond. Walk along with the early settlers as they busied themselves with farming and the movement of their livestock. Pause for a moment at the steepest part of the road and maybe, just maybe, you can visualize that horse drawn wagon just starting its torturous pull up this steep incline becoming another small indelible part of our past.

Horse Hill Road was the first town road on the north (back) side of Granite Lake. It was laid out by the town in 1791 to connect the home of Samuel McCloud with the existing road (High Street) over Twin Hills that ran from Stoddard to Nelson. The portion of today's lake road to the west of McCloud's was laid out by the town in 1823 and the east portion (North Shore Road today) was not laid out until 1900.

Joseph Wilson built his house near McCloud's in 1799. He was McCloud's brother-in-law and my great, great, great grandfather. David and Cee Cee Frechette currently live in the Wilson House. which they have recently restored the porch to it's original wrap around version.

The McCloud family moved away from



the hillside behind the lake in 1799 and their house was gone by the early 1800's. This road was probably laid out to give Samuel McCloud access to High Street , the meetinghouse ,Packersfield,. And later Nelson and points East and South, as there was no settlement of Munsonville at the time.

Historian Charles Peirce suggested the name “ Horse Hill “ may have come about because of an accident or a feat of strength involving a horse drawing a heavy load up the hill. The tale told me as a youngster was that a horse that had pulled a wagon all the way across the country from the West Coast dropped dead pulling the wagon up this hill as it neared the East Coast and the end of its journey. Oddly enough the current tax maps now refer to this road as Town Farm Road.

Roads were of the most desperate kind. They were made without any regards to hills, but usually over the highest : people cleared the land on high ground for it ensured the best crop. They built their houses where their cleared land was. In this endeavor, *laying out the roads*, the only object was to pass from one neighbor to another for their own convenience.

By Bill Steiniger & Alan Rumrill

The Harris Center for Conservation Education is working to protect the Granite Lake Headwaters property, a 515-acre parcel located in the highlands of Stoddard. The property contains two headwater streams that emerge from the steep slopes of Fletcher Hill before flowing under Route 9, into Nye Meadow, and on to Granite Lake in Stoddard and Nelson, NH.

In 2013, this property was purchased by a forestry and development company, who conducted extensive timber operations at the site. During this period of intensive road building and timber harvesting, silt and sediment were carried in heavy rains from the site through the headwater streams and into Granite Lake, raising concerns about water quality at that popular swimming, fishing, and boating spot.

Protection of the Granite Lake Headwaters land – which is the largest unprotected parcel in the Granite Lake watershed – will raise the proportion of conserved land in the watershed to 30 percent. On a recent visit to the property tracks were found from moose, bear, bobcat, grey fox and many of our more commonly found species. The conserved lands would be managed for wildlife habitat and forest health, paying special attention to minimizing the potential for erosion and sedimentation impacts in the steam **Nye Meadow** and **Granite Lake**. In addition, the Headwaters parcel is directly contiguous with a 2,278-acre corridor of conserved lands stretching north from **Spoonwood Pond** in Nelson to Route 9 in Stoddard – providing important room to roam for people and wildlife alike. For more information, please contact Jeremy Wilson at (603) 525-3394 or wilson@harriscenter.org.

Since 1970, the Harris Center for Conservation Education has been promoting understanding and respect for the natural world through environmental education, land protection, and conservation research. We have conserved over 23,000 acres in large conservation blocks across our 8-town focus area. By Jeremy Wilson



Photo by Patty Maden

We are getting ready for the coming summer season on Granite Lake. The **Lake Host Program**, sponsored by the **New Hampshire Lakes Association** (nhlakes.org) is a vital part of preserving the health and beauty of this lake we all love ! There are about 20 volunteer boat inspectors who give two hours a week of their time to check boats coming into **Granite Lake**. We also have several young people who are paid to staff the boat ramp on weekends. They inspect motorized boats, canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards which enter the lake at the public boat ramp to be sure they are not carrying any aquatic invasive species. They are also trained to educate boaters to clean, drain and dry their boats between lakes.

Last year, our enthusiastic Volunteer Lake Hosts logged 480 hours on the ramp, and our paid Lake Hosts and the coordinator put in 460 hours either at the ramp or completing other lake hosting business.

As new Lake Host Coordinators, we appreciate all the help and encouragement we get from our neighbors and supporters.

Please let us know if you are interested in becoming a Lake Host. We currently have several open slots at the boat ramp that need to be covered. Both Paid and Volunteer . Please Contact Sharon at 617-784-2275 (phone or text) or at soiagulli@hotmail.com for more information.



We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of volunteers and young people learning to be stewards of Granite Lake. It is clear that people around the lake are willing to give their time to keep the lake in its beautiful condition.

**Patty Maden and Sharon O'Brien Iagulli
Coordinators 2019**



Special Thanks & Recognition to Bob Englund for his 14 Years of Service as a Volunteer!

Remembering

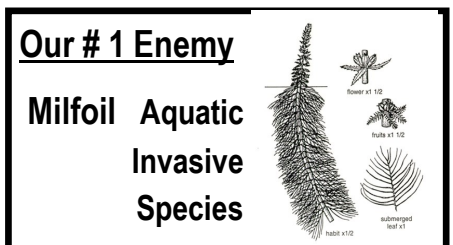
By Sharon O'Brien Iagulli

Since 1961, I have been coming to Granite Lake. From '61 to '70, I was a camper at Camp Notre Dame. I learned "everything I needed to know" from my camping experience. **Really...** From 1971 (the year after the camp closed) until 2015, I spent time visiting the Skidmore home each summer: renting the "Hodge Podge" twice, being a guest of Rosemary's for many a long weekend... and my love for Granite Lake grew. My dream came true in 2016 when I was able to purchase property on the lake.

This summer Patty Maden and I will be taking over the position of Lake Host Coordinators helping to be sure our lake remains as clean as it is today. And to benefit the Granite Lake Association, I have tee shirts to sell, and hope all members will want one !
(disclaimer...this is not sanctioned by the GLA)

This Association is one I believe in, once the shirts are paid for all profit will go to the GLA

Thank you Granite Lake, for all the memories. I pray for many more!



Unfinished Business by Bob Maden

In the spring of 2017, the first in our new home on North Shore Road, we looked out across the lake towards the scenic island on Granite Lake and spotted something swimming towards the shore by Rosemary Rafter's cottage. A quick look in the binoculars and a check in the NH Field Guide confirmed that it was a beaver. Wow! A beaver in Granite Lake!

That was the last time we saw the beaver up close and personal. But he (or she) is still enjoying our clean water. How do we know? During the last two years about 10 small saplings, mostly poplars, have gone missing from our shoreline. The beaver leaves behind a few clues: a small stump about 18 inches above the ground, wood chips by the stump, and branches cleaned of all bark in the shallow water. And sometimes a partially cut tree!

I would love to give the beaver a copy of the NH Department of Environmental Services Fact Sheet on Vegetation Management for Water Quality (see link below) as that beaver may not be in strict compliance with the regulations. But beavers can't read; so we give the beaver a pass on his misdeeds. We are happy that we have a clean lake that provides a healthy habitat for beaver as well as eagles, loons, trout, bass, our neighbors and visitors to Granite Lake.

Because our beavers are determined to reduce the tree population around Granite Lake,

we all need to do our part in keeping our lake clean and maintaining high water quality. I would encourage everyone to read the Fact Sheet on Vegetation Management for Water Quality, which the native beaver population cannot. You can help by:

1) **Do not be a Beaver:** Within 50 feet of the high water mark (reference line), *ground cover and shrubs may not be removed, landscaped or converted to lawn.* Ground cover and shrubs may only be trimmed to a height of no less than 3 feet. Trees may also be pruned as long as the health of the tree is not endangered. In order to remove trees within the waterfront buffer, property owners must maintain a minimum number of "points" (25) within the "grid segment" (50' x 25') from which they propose to remove trees.

2) **Follow the regulations for Chemical applications:** *No fertilizer may be applied within 25 feet of the reference line. Between 25 and 250 feet from the reference line, only slow or controlled release fertilizer may be used. No other chemicals, including pesticides or herbicides of any kind, can be applied within 50 feet of the reference line, except by a licensed, permitted professional,*

3) **Read and follow the permitting regulations** for things such as construction, excavation, and fill within 250 feet of the reference line, and

4) **Reintroduce a woodland buffer** with native ground cover, shrubs and trees on your property.

Meanwhile, there is unfinished business for a hungry beaver on our shoreline. I hope we can catch his nocturnal visit this year! Timber!



<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/factsheets/sp/documents/sp-5.pdf>

Remembrance

This past winter, Granite Lake lost a member of our community after 29 years.

Richard "Dick" Murdock passed away on February 2, 2019 after a period of declining health. Richard was born on February 14, 1930.

In recent years, Richard could be seen out for a stroll on North Shore Road or out on the water looking to hook the "big" one.

He was an avid fishermen, not only on Granite Lake but expeditions to Canada and Alaska.

Richard loved the Red Sox, NASCAR after Bobby Whitcomb's team broke into the sport, and hunting and fishing.

He will be greatly missed by family and friends.

The 70th Annual Meeting of the Granite Lake Association

SATURDAY JULY 20th 2019 at the Chapel by the Lake at **9:30 AM**

The Association works for the protection and betterment of Granite Lake. The annual meeting is the forum for discussion of common concerns and for the determination of appropriate action. Please join us!

AGENDA 2019

Salutation and Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduce the Board Members

President - Bill Steiniger

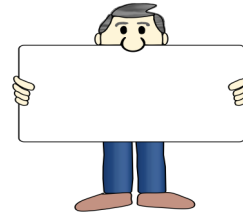
Vice President - Tyke Levine

Treasurer - Tom Newcomb

Secretary - Sally Ripley

Officer-at-Large - Bob Maden

Granite Lake News Editor - Cayla Pagniucci



Remembrances of past neighbors

Secretary Report - Sally Ripley, Secretary

Guest Speaker - Scott T. Ashley Aquatic Biologist with NHDES

Topic : The Health of NH Lakes and The Role of the State Biologist

Treasurers Reports / Financial Report - Tom Newcomb, Treasurer

- Water Quality VLAP Report

Lake Host Report - Pat Maden & Sharon O. Iagulli

Loon & Eagle Nest Report - Tyke Levine

CPR / AED - Bob England

Bill Steiniger Presidents Report and update

- Beaver Deceiver Update
- Siltation Concerns
- Dam Inspection update
- Lake drawdown

Questions / Concerns

Vote to pay for use of the Chapel

Set next annual association meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Guest Speaker

Scott Ashley Aquatic Biologist

**Lake Trophic Assessment Coordinator NH
Environmental Services**

Scott has been a field aquatic biologist for NHDES Watershed Bureau for over 25 years.

Currently as coordinator of the Lake Trophic Assessment program Scott's department samples and analyzes the water of over 30 lakes and ponds per year.....

Scott Ashley is also the Quality Control Officer for the Jody Connor Limnology Center.



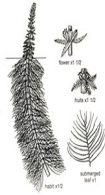
Potluck Picnic with the Band

Sunday, August 18 th at 3:00

Potluck Picnic with the Nelson Band Performing on Sandy Beach Commons at 4:00 pm and Touring the lake at 5:00pm . Everyone is invited. Call Donna Hamilton 847-3288 or Angel Nicoletti 847-9547 to Volunteer to help. Many hands and many dishes are needed to make this a success.!

Our # 1 Enemy

Variable Milfoil is not native, spreads rapidly and displaces beneficial native plant life. In NH, Milfoil has no natural predators to keep it's population in check. Under optimal temperature, light and nutrient conditions, milfoil may grow up to an inch per day; choking the oxygen out of the lake, affecting fish, plants and water fowl. Ultimately ruining the Lake for swimmers !



A Note From Your Editor

I would like to thank all of those who contributed articles, photographs, and time to this 2019 Newsletter.

Our costs for paper, printing, labels and postage to bring you the Newsletter come from the **GLA Membership Fund**.

If you enjoy receiving **Granite Lake News** please do your part by contributing to the Fund. Fill out the back page and mail in your contribution ! **Thank You in Advance**

We are working hard to keep Granite Lake Water Clean and Clear. Won't you help . Any question or comments - feel free to contact me.

Cayla Pagnucci 603-847-9716

Davis Public Library



We very recently welcomed a New Librarian: Ingrid (Inga) Cullen. She lives in Hillsborough with her husband and 2 children. She has a Masters in Library Science with a Focus in Small and Rural Libraries.

Lauren Rettig, who was our Librarian for the past 5 years, took an opportunity at a college in Vermont . We are grateful for her contributions to the Library's growth. She made the Library a warm and welcoming place.

The **Davis Library** has programs of interest for all ages. Many community groups meet here.

Yoga on the Lawn will begin in July.

The Davis Book Group meets at 7pm, the 3rd Monday of the month at the Library.

The Annual Book Sale will be Saturday July 6 from 9am to 1pm. Book donations are welcome and may be left in the Library Book Drop. The Book Sale is part of the many events of Stoddard Olde Home Days.

Library Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 3-7pm; Tuesday and Saturday 10am -2pm.

Come to meet our new Librarian and check out the interesting collection.

Angel Nicoletti, Trustee

Chapel-by-the-Lake

A community of Faith In the Community By the Lake "

Worship services will be held Sundays at 10 a.m with Pastor Bill Taylor

AA Meetings are held Sunday evenings at 6:30 pm.

Saturday Night Hymm sings one evening once a month . Starts in the summer

Knitting Club meets every other Thursday from 10 to noon. Starting June 7th. For more info call Diane Halter at 8479581.



JULY 4th Annual Chicken BBQ

was a big success again last year !! The Church plans to cook and sell 150 plus fresh

chickens and sides again this year. An excellent way to kick off your Holiday while supporting the Church !

Fitness on the Beach with Joann



Monday 8:30 - 9:30

Wednesday & Friday 9:00 -10:00

The classes will be a mix of strength training, balance work, cardiovascular endurance training, and stretching .

Designed to suit all fitness levels.

All participants should bring a mat, towel and water bottle. Classes will be \$5 per person per session. Looking forward to working with others to get healthy and have some fun !

JUNE 2019 The Granite Lake Association is a member supported non profit organization. Your membership contribution is now a (501c3) tax *deductible charitable donation*. Please return this section with your check to: **Granite Lake Association** and mail to

Thomas Newcombe - Treasurer
701 Granite Lake Rd
Munsonville NH, 03457



\$50.00 Family Households

\$35.00 One-person Household

\$\$ Donation to Water Quality Projects

Name _____

Summer Address _____

Winter Address _____

Email _____

Winter Telephone: _____ Lake telephone # or cell _____

Will you volunteer to help? Circle: **Lake Host, Picnic, Executive Committee, Newsletter, Web Site**

Help us keep our mailing list up to date. Please Inform us in writing or via email of any changes in your address : email Cayla Pagnucci newsletter editor at pagnucci.cayla1@gmail.com