



Granite Lake News

Working together to preserve our lake

May 2020

THE SEASON AHEAD

Photo by Cayla Pagnucci

As my term of president ends words cannot express my amazement at the events that are unfolding around the world. We are fortunate indeed to be a part of the natural world here on Granite Lake. Especially during uncertain times like these, the lake can give us a sense of comfort, renewed inspiration and a special connection with nature.

The **Granite Lake Association** has worked hard over the last two years on a variety of projects to maintain and improve the water quality and natural environment of our lake. We have forged stronger bonds with the town of Nelson and Stoddard and added a regional partner: the Harris Conservation Center, placing more acreage under conservation protection. This group has gone a long way to maintain and improve our way of life and combat climate change in New Hampshire.

Much thanks goes to our new team who manage the Lake Host program. Over 800 boats of all types visited and enjoyed our lake in 2019. This program, staffed by paid and volunteer lake hosts is our mainline of defense against the spread of aquatic invasive plants – volunteers are always welcome to join our efforts. I would like to acknowledge all the residents who have expressed concerns and offered advice as to the wellbeing of the lake, they did not fall on deaf ears.

Our lake is a living entity – it was born, breathes, digests, ages and eventually dies. Lakes age slowly and gracefully for the most part. It is up to all of us to slow the process of lake aging. The most effective means of slowing the process down is to reduce excess nutrient buildup (run-off) and live mindfully and gently upon the land.

As we enter the summer season please be respectful of others and maintain social distancing as the virus threat remains. From all the members of the board and myself, we wish you a safe, happy and above all a healthy summer....

Your President Bill Steiniger



Lake Host Program on Granite Lake 2020

Photo by Cayla Pagniucci

This Lake is Your Lake, This Lake is My Lake...

Hello Granite Lake Lovers!

You know how important keeping our lake clean and healthy is so just a couple of reminders...

Please inform your guests and renters of their responsibility to do their part. Please help keep our water clean while keeping the people in our community Healthy and Safe!

In accordance with the **CDC Guidelines** Remind people coming from another state that it is recommended to self quarantine for 14 days. When walking around the lake stay 6 feet from others and have a mask ready to wear in case you stop to talk.

A List of **Reminders** "Do's and Don'ts" from the **GLA editor** can be obtained to **post** in your **rental property**. Ask Bill Steiniger.

The Lake Host Program

is looking for volunteers on weekdays, M - F 6am to 6pm 2-hour slots, and paid hosts on weekends and holidays, S - S, negotiable slots. Paid hosts must complete a two-hour training which can be done on the internet.

Contact us with any questions or concerns.

Looking forward to a summer of fun.

Yours in commitment to keeping our lake
free from invasive species,
Sharon Iagulli (617-784-2275)
Patty Maden (860-324-8059)

Our #1 Enemy



Milfoil

Aquatic

Invasive

Species



Granite Lake Association

Have you ever thought ... "**Why should I join the Granite Lake Association?**"

I already pay taxes to the Village District every year?"
"Doesn't that money help keep our lake pristine and clean?"
The answer is, "No, it does not!"

The Village District is a ***municipal district funded by tax dollars*** from residents who own property on or beach rights to the lake. Its charter is to maintain the dam. The Village District is not part of the Granite Lake Association.

The dam has no consideration whether clean water or dirty water flows over it.

But the **GLA** the **Granite Lake Association** does care!

The **GLA** is a ***voluntary association*** which exists to serve Granite Lake's scenic, recreational and environmental interests by promoting the preservation and protection of its water quality and other natural resources. It is ***funded by the contributions*** from its members.

The **GLA** acquired the island for use by our members in 1951 and is enjoyed by young and old alike, as well as nesting loons and eagles every year **GLA** manages the all important Lake Host Program to help prevent the introduction of invasive species to our lake; we conduct periodic water quality testing to monitor the health of our lake.

Please Join
Today

In **2011** the **GLA** completed a Granite Lake Watershed Management Plan which is our ongoing guide for improvements and maintenance to culverts, and drains controlling run offs.

By **2015 GLA** worked closely with the **Audubon Society** to eliminate heavy runoff from Nye Meadow by installing a “beaver deceiver.” with great continued success !

In that same vein ,through advocacy and member contributions to the Harris Center the **GLA** helped them acquire the Granite lake Headwaters Property in 2018, further protecting our watershed!

All of these endeavors have associated costs attached.

The **GLA** sponsors the printing and mailing of the annual “Granite Lake News “ and manages the Granite Lake Association Website.

We need everyone who enjoys the lake to be a member with a tax deductible (501(C) contribution.

By Bob Maden / Cayla Pagniucci

Nesting Eagles Update

By Tyke Lavigne

As of this writing on **April 21, 2020,**

I'm glad to report that Granite Lake's pair of mature Eagles are back on the nest at the island.

After limited eagle sightings throughout the winter, performing nest maintenance, they were witnessed in mid/late March back on the nest. Since that time one of the pair has been in the nest while the mate is off doing what Eagle mate's do, like maintaining the food supply.

As the timing of their return is very similar to last year, we can be anticipated that if all goes well, we'll see Eaglets in the nest mid-May timeframe

It was quite amazing to watch the growth from the Eaglet stage to that of a Fledging over a 10 to 12 week period. During this time the two Fledglings would stand on the side of the nest and test out their wings. Generally, a straight vertical lift-off only to abort the flight after reaching a height of a couple of feet above the nest.

Too high, too high !!

Once confident of their capabilities, a quick loop around the cove at the island would be the the maiden voy-



Photo by Cayla Pagniucci

age. On more than one occasion, they were observed making a gracious loop only to have an incorrect, internal altimeter setting and making a crash landing into the evergreen boughs 10 feet below the nest.

However, it wasn't long before they were performing acrobatic maneuvers in tandem high above the island. Both disappearing off into the sunset some fall day.

The following data was obtained from the 40th annual Mid-winter Eagle survey as conducted by N.H. Audubon on January 11, 2020:

101 Bald Eagles plus 2 Golden Eagles observed (6% higher than the 2017 previous record) Most Eagles reported in the Lakes Region at 31 Bald and 1 Golden

Connecticut River watershed was second at 29 Balds

First time for reporting more than one Golden Eagle

Of the 101 Bald: 74 adults, 25 immature and 2 unknown

Let's hope our pair are able to add to the count this year !!!

Water Quality Report

By Tom Newcomb

Water Transparency:

8.2 meters at the Deep Spot. This is an exceptionally high measurement, compared with the NH median of 3.3 M for all NH lakes measured. Granite Lake's clear water results from low phosphorus / chlorophyll / algae, low turbidity (partly due to high average lake depth), and minimal coloring from dissolved organic matter such as leaves. We have been very fortunate to enjoy a long trend of high transparency for many years, but it cannot be taken for granted

Total Phosphorus: 4 micrograms/liter at the Deep Spot. This is well below the state median of 11 for all lakes tested.

Phosphorus Retention Ratio: 61%. This is the approximate ratio of new phosphorus entering Granite Lake which stays in the water, feeding algae and chlorophyll. The remaining 39% exits the lake through the dam, or sinks and binds to the lake bottom, where it's harmless .

GLA members have worked to prioritize the reduction of phosphorus based on the data and activity on the lake !

Conductivity / Chlorides: Granite Lake has elevated levels along Granite Lake Rd. and in the Inlet Brook (which originates upstream along Rt. 9). These chemicals are most likely from road salt. This would be a good topic of discussion with the Nelson Selectmen.

The History of the Granite Lake Village District

by Nick Nicoletti

To begin, I'm especially noting the significance of Phil and Donna Hamilton because Phil became the heart of the group of community responders to the dangers of financial and legal risks that the community faced almost thirty years ago. That was before the legal formation of **GLVD**. As a matter of his choice, Phil was not one of the original Village District commissioners. Nevertheless, he was one of the original seekers after a solution to address those dangers. With the most consistent presence and awareness of dam integrity over the long history of the dam; first built to sustain a mill. Phil became, in my view, the “**godfather**” of the community inheritance that the dam represents !

The three original commissioners were Bob Woods (22 years of service in that capacity is second to none), Dave Costin, a boating-safety inspector for 30 plus years and David Knight, though deceased reflect the deep influence all had in Village District birthing.

In the beginning there was only the **GLA**. It owned the dam, the island and, although not legally responsible for lake-water quality, was most aware and sensitive to it. But the real existential risk at the time was that all property owners with lake rights might be collectively and **individually** (yes, individually) responsible for any damage caused by any failure of the dam at a time when there was a need for strengthening the dam (which has long since been accomplished). Of course insurance was in place but it was becoming more expensive and possibly insufficient.

A lawyer in Keene by the name of Tom Hanna was consulted . He recommended the Village District concept, a special and rather arcane municipal entity available to residents with a common interest in accomplishing various public purposes, such as building and maintaining dams and related activities e.g. lake water levels.

In **1997** or 1998, Tom prepared and filed at the Secretary of State's Office and Cheshire County Registry of Deeds the legal papers birthing **GLVD**. It is a governmental entity with the power to tax for the support of its sole responsibility to operate and maintain the integrity of the dam.

I believe any land owner in the watershed of the lake as geologically determined is necessarily a member and a taxpayer as well, with the obligation to pay her/his share (based on relative assessed value) of the budgeted taxes to support e.g. expenses for repairs, replacement of the dam and liability insurance (at a lower cost than individuals would pay).

The **GLVD** appears to be accomplishing its purpose very well. It has accumulated tens of thousands of dollars (\$) over the years in its capital reserve fund, and will continue to add funds from taxes each year for replacement of the dam, whenever that necessity occurs!

Listening

Watching

Turning Inward

Exchanging Information

Blue Blue Skies

Bird Song so Bright

We Paused In Quarantine

We Felt Fear

We Felt Gratitude

We missed Our Families

We learned To Meet on Zoom

Streaming to provide distraction

The Lake Became our " Anchor "

Thankful for the front line Workers

Appalled with the lack of PPE

Horrified with the Lives Lost

We felt Fortunate

Safely Opening Up

Continuing to Wash our Hands

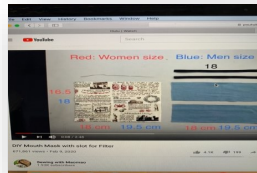
We Pray !!!

"This Pandemic is Global, Our Strength and Support is Local ; within our Granite Lake Community"



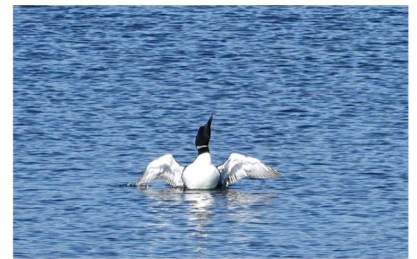
Book Club at Joann's Sharing food and friendship

Talented People
got busy making
Masks for their
Friends and
Family's



A Photo Montage
Reflections of Our Community
by Cayla Pagnucci

Coronavirus Reshaping Our Lives



"The call of The Loon in the Quiet "

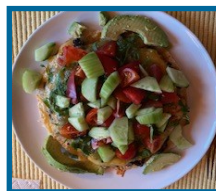


We Cooked ... We Baked ... We drank ... We Ate

We Shopped While Masked We cleaned...We Donated...

We Exercised ..We..walked We talked We learned from each other.....

"Today Is the Present "
Origami Bird



People Gave Thanks



Full
Moon
Rising



Social Distancing on the Lake...



" Keeping up Strength and Spirits "

Virtual Unity Supports Our Community " Angel "



" Our community Friendship



Birthday Cupcakes by Bev Largier



" Quigong "



" Welcoming New Life " ...

A grandson for Sharon....

Something Sacred Happens at the Lake



Early in the morning, when the dawn is just coloring the sky, the air is crisp and still and the lake is smooth as glass. If you look out over the water you might think you are peering into all eternity, and the earthliness of your daily life begins to fall away into the deep silence.

Later in the day, the sun warms the air and a gentle breeze caresses your arm. When you step into the lake, the cool water washes over your ankles, then your knees, and eventually over your head so that your whole body is surrounded and lifted up by this ancient lake. The initial chill gives way to the comfortable embrace of the water, and whatever worries you had yesterday are washed away.

Sharing time with those you love is holy. One small family grows here to generations that spend time together. Meals multiply like loaves and fishes to feed everyone who comes. You watch your children grow here from year to year, measuring themselves against each other's skill in swimming, or against a tiny mark on a wall. The memories that are shared and sheltered in this beautiful place are sacred.

Rest happens here, too, precious rest. The recreation of body and spirit. A delicious nap in the dappled shade, lulled by the certain knowledge that there isn't anywhere you have to go or anything you have to do. It is a sacred thing to lie suspended between wake and sleep in the afternoon, without obligation, without awareness of time, letting yesterday slip away and tomorrow wait for tomorrow.

In the evening, when daylight turns to dusk, you can hear the loons calling. They sing the same song their ancestors sang here, and their ancestors before them, for as far back as there have been loons. The hills have heard the loons' song here, before there were people to be charmed and haunted by their melody. Their call is a hymn to all creation, a song they will sing as you drift off to sleep at the end of the day.

A meditation by Pastor Catherine Serrentine

Submitted by Patty Maden

HEALTH OFFICER STATEMENT FOR GRANITE LAKE NEWS

Having just attended a virtual meeting of the New Hampshire Health Officers Association, I learned that the official position in regard to **COVID 19** is that people coming into New Hampshire from other states are still theoretically required to self-quarantine for 14 days.

That strict recommendation certainly should be enforced if anyone is recovering from COVID 19 or has recently tested positive for the virus.

It was acknowledged by the leaders conducting the seminar that the regulation is very strict and is not enforceable.

The practical recommendation, therefore, is that all visitors coming into the state wear a facemask whenever they are in contact with people other than their own immediate family and that they practice social-distancing, meaning that they stay six feet from others. Similarly, frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer are highly recommended.

It appears that 90-plus percent of people going into stores are wearing facemasks, and the staff of grocery stores maintain six feet of social distancing in check-out lines.

NH Guidelines recommended that, at minimum, when people walk around the lake, they have a facemask in their pocket and place it over the face when conversing with others.

PLEASE STAY SAFE

Bob Englund
Health Officer for the town of Stoddard



Ariel photo Munsonville NH 1907

Water Water All Around.... By Bill Steineger

Almost all my life, I've lived by the sea. I was born on an Island and growing up around the waterfront, came to know the many moods of the ocean. From the sparkling seas where the sun danced on its surface in a wondrous kaleidoscope of light, to the raging winds and waves of nor'easters and hurricanes. Now I reside on a distant cousin of the ocean, a beautiful, tranquil lake nestled in a forested watershed of some 3,000 acres and holding a billion gallons of fresh water. The two are connected to each other as fresh water from successively larger watersheds. This watershed linkage begins as Granite Lake empties into Otter Brook, which in turn empties into the Ashuelot river, which in turn empties into the Connecticut river and eventually into Long Island Sound and the great salt ocean.

Most cities and communities rely on dams to supply fresh water – which is filtered, aerated, fluorinated and chlorinated before reaching the tap. Our lake residents, on the other hand, rely on their fresh water from wells that tap into the existing ground water aquifer. This ground water is created by the process of surface absorption of the total of 44 inches of precipitation received annually by the Granite Lake watershed, approximately 19 inches or 43% which is absorbed by the soil. That portion of the absorbed water, which reaches the ground water table, will eventually recharge Granite Lake via the many springs located about the lake bottom.

Ever since I moved to Granite Lake I was impressed by the clarity and quality of our well water. It was therefore with much surprise that in September I received a Ground Water Contamination Notification from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. It stated that contamination was detected in a groundwater sample collected from a location that was within 500 feet of my property. The source of contamination was an organic chemical called

Trichlorethylene (TCS). This is a chlorinated hydrocarbon developed in the late 1960's for use as a solvent for greases and oils and a component for lubricants, paints, and pesticides and considered a known carcinogen, even at rather low concentrations. As there was no safe lower threshold of exposure to this substance it represented a very real concern.

The NHDES remediation bureau responded immediately by dispatching a team to collect well water samples from seven homes in the area that could have their well water contaminated from this source. A few weeks later and we were all advised that our well water was safe from this chemical contamination, but additional testing in the future would be prudent as there was no guarantee that the spread of this chemical would remain static. Our world is a water world – three quarters of it covered by water with only 2.5% of it fresh water. All living things require water to survive. Of the 7.7 billion people who now inhabit our planet, each of us needs a half gallon of fresh water a day to survive. Fresh water is the most precious commodity we possess, and must be protected at all costs.

As I look out on the lake these days I am reminded of a line from the poem the “ Rhyme of the Ancient Mariner “ which I read in school many years ago.

“ Water water all around....but not a drop to drink.....”

The 71st Annual Meeting of the Granite Lake Association

SATURDAY JULY 18th 2020 On Sandy Beach at 10:00 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.

We will be social distancing in accordance with CDC guidelines (leaving 6 feet around each person .)

Please Bring your own chair and mask

Please Join Us!

AGENDA 2020

Salutation and Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Remembrances / Recognition of members

Nominating Committee Report / Nick Nicolletti

President - Bob Maden

Vice President - Derek Walton

Treasurer -Tom Newcomb

Secretary - Sally Ripley

Officer-at-Large - Damian Largier

Granite Lake News Editor - Cayla Pagniucci

Secretary Report - Sally Ripley, Secretary



Guest Speaker - New Hampshire Lakes representative

Topic : Watercraft / Boating concerns /

Treasurers Reports / Financial Report -Tom Newcomb, Treasurer

- Water Quality VLAP Report

Lake Host Report - Patty Maden & Sharon O.lagulli

Covid 19 Update - Bob England

Questions / Concerns

Vote to pay for use of the Chapel

Set next annual association meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Thinking we can all use a laugh.



"FREE HAMMOCKS, all over town. It's like a miracle!"



Potluck Picnic with the Band

**CANCELLED DUE
TO THE COVID 19
PANDEMIC**

NOTICE SKI CRAFT BANNED ON GRANITE LAKE

The State of New Hampshire
banned Ski craft on
Granite Lake on **10/01/1988** per
RSA #270:74.

The State's definition of Ski craft
is as follows:

"Ski craft" means any motorized
watercraft or private
boat which is less than 13 feet in
length as manufactured,
is capable of exceeding a speed
of 20 mph, and has the
capacity to carry not more than
the operator and one other
person while in operation.

For the complete definition see -
RSA 270:73

Violators should be reported to
N.H. Marine Patrol.
Telephone 603-293-2037

Davis Public Library



The Davis Public Library
is located at 1391 Rte 123N in
Stoddard.

It has been closed since March
16th because of the Pandemic.

The date to resume services is
currently uncertain . It is likely
services will resume gradually
until we can have patrons in the
building safely.

However there are electronic and
digital services available with the
use of a library card.

Access those services through
the library site of the Town of
Stoddard or through the library
website .

[https://
davislibraryassist.wixsite.com/
dmpl](https://davislibraryassist.wixsite.com/dmpl)

Angel Nicoletti, Trustee Chair

Chapel-by-the-Lake

*A community of Faith In the Community By the
Lake "*

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

Due to the pandemic all meetings and clubs are
suspended until further notice.

JULY 4th Annual Chicken BBQ

was a big success again last year !! The
Church plans to cook and sell 150 plus
fresh boxed **Chickens TO GO** using the

utmost caution and
care .An excellent way
to kick off your Holiday
while supporting the
Church !



**CANCELLED DUE TO
COVID 19**

A Note From Your Editor

I would like to thank all of those who contributed articles, photographs, and
time to this 2020 edition of the **News**. 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 !

We are working hard to keep the **MAILING LIST** up to date Please give us
your current email address by filling out the back section and mailing or
send me your info at **pagniucci.cayla1@gmail.com**

Feel Free to contact me at 617-877-9449 Thank You Cayla Pagniucci

JUNE 2020 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 Pagniucci newsletter editor at pagniucci.cayla1@gmail.com