



Photo by Cayla Pagnucci

Granite Lake News

Working together to preserve our lake

May 2021

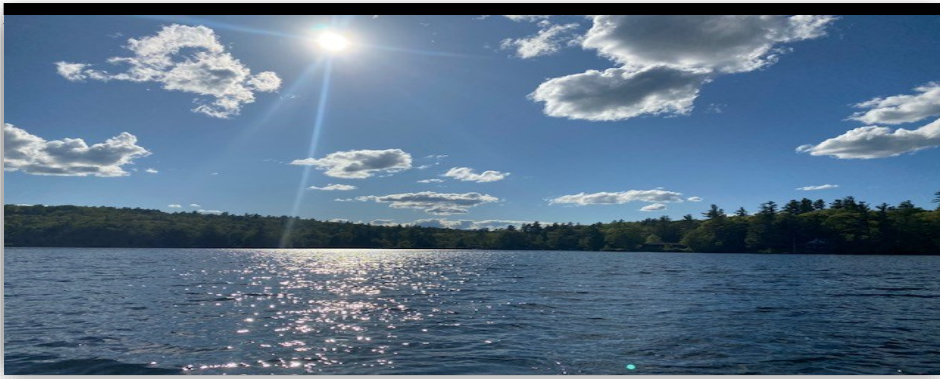
A Letter from your new President of the GLA, Bob Maden

2020 was a year that we would all like to forget but will remember for a very long time. The pandemic brought changes in our everyday lives and inflicted sorrow and grief to too many families across New Hampshire, our country, and the world – loss of life, loss of jobs, hunger, homelessness, and social isolation. Our small lake was not immune to these changes. Old Home Days, ice cream socials, pancake breakfasts, blueberry festivals, concerts at Apple Hill – to name a few of the activities that bring us together as a lake community - were cancelled; visits from dear friends were postponed ‘until next year’; family get-togethers were scaled back or put off.

Despite the pandemic, or most likely because of the pandemic, our lake, like all the beautiful lakes in New Hampshire, was extremely busy. Our **Lake Hosts** recorded an increase of visiting boats of over **50%**. The **Granite Lake Association** is very thankful and proud to have such dedicated volunteers working to keep us safe from invasive species and we really relied on them in **2020**. We had problems: with boat traffic traveling at high speeds in the wrong direction around the island, jet skiers making large wakes near kayaks and the shore line, trash on the island, and even overnight camping on the island. But we managed to survive last summer with no boating accidents. Our membership was there to politely educate those unfamiliar with the guidelines and, occasionally, with calls to the **Marine Patrol**. We are very fortunate to have a beautiful lake and a community that cares about its surroundings and neighbors. The **GLA** thanks all of you who protect our lake each and every day.

Our eagles have been busy during the winter months rebuilding their nest that was damaged in a fall storm. They have been busy working to raise another eagle family. Not only have the eagles been active, but homeowners, too. The executive board continued to attend permit and variance hearings for several planned additions and new homes around the lake, advocating for the lake’s well-being. Our members and your executive board have monitored the logging that was undertaken this winter off Old Farm Road. The lake association urges everyone – not just those undertaking new projects – to learn about the **LakeSmart program** sponsored by **NH Lakes**. It is one of the most meaningful ways that you can help protect the watershed.

Just as the loons returned the day our lake was free of ice, our friends and family will return to **Granite Lake** with the **Memorial Day** holiday. With the rollout of vaccinations, I am excited and hopeful that our community can come together to celebrate with friends and family this year. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy the lake!



Lake Host Program on Granite Lake 2021

Photo by Cayla Pagniucci

Logging And Water Quality

By Derek Walton

The **Granite Lake Association** is proud to be one of the sponsors of the **Lake Host Program** along with the towns of **Nelson** and **Stoddard**. This program is dedicated to keeping Granite Lake free of invasive plants and animals. We are sure you are pleased to be a part of this beautiful lake community and hope that you will help us by playing a small, but **VERY** significant role. **We need volunteers** to help with our *courtesy boat inspections for incoming boaters on the boat ramp*. Every week from **Memorial Day through Labor Day**, Monday to Friday, some genuinely fabulous people volunteer in two-hour shifts to perform this service. Some of these dedicated volunteers have been doing this since the **Lake Host Program** began on **Granite Lake** in **2002!** A **two-hour webinar** is all the training that is required. During the week, the ramp is usually fairly quiet with not many incoming boats. On weekend days, which tend to be busier, our **hosts** are **paid** and are typically 17 to 25 year olds. Last summer our **volunteers** and paid hosts **inspected** over **1300 boats!** We were fortunate that not a single invasive species was found. Boaters are more aware of the **"clean, drain, and dry policy** which is now the law in NH. We are determined to keep **Granite Lake** healthy for our community now and for the future. Please contact **Sharon or Patty, Co-coordinators of the program, to learn more about volunteering. Please join us!**

More information about this program and the lakes of **New Hampshire** in general can be found at www.NHLakes.org.

Sharon O'Brien - [lagulli soiagulli@hotmail.com](mailto:soiagulli@hotmail.com) 617-784-2275

Patty Maden prmaden@sbcglobal.net 860-324-8059

Our # 1 Enemy

Milfoil
Aquatic
Invasive
Species

Year-round residents may have noticed the parade of logging trucks around our lake shore roads this winter. I sure noticed, and it got me wondering about the potential impact of timber harvesting on our **lake water quality**.

The **2011 AECOM watershed management plan** commissioned by the **GLA** is one resource which helps us assess the impact of logging on water quality. As part of this study, a watershed model was created to estimate nutrient leaching from various sources into the lake. This **model** attributed **13% of total lake phosphorus** input to timber harvesting within a **38-acre** area located at the north east corner of the watershed. The **38-acre area represents 1.6%** of our **2400-acre watershed**. So, **yikes**, **13%** of nutrient loading from **1.6%** of the **watershed**.

Since the **AECOM study**, further logging activity led to clearly visible turbid water entering the lake through the inlet brook after heavy rains. Here, **vigilant residents** traced the sedimentation to logging above Little Granite Lake and were ultimately **successful** getting **remediations** in place.

Logging this winter took place on 110-

acres north of the lake on the slopes of Melville Hill. The **GLA board** is working to **minimize the impact** of this logging on our water quality. Our concerns include the logged hillside itself as well as significant disturbance along the **Old Town Farm Road** used to access the logging site.

We have identified the tributaries entering the lake which drain from the logged area and have been **monitoring** for signs of turbidity and siltation. We will also compare this year's **DES** tributary phosphorus analysis to historical numbers. **Thus far all looks ok**, but we will continue to monitor and work with landowners on remediation if the need arises.

Plans are in place to address erosion concerns on Old Town Farm Road resulting from heavy use by logging equipment. These include water bars and infiltration ditches.

Fortunately, logged areas typically **"heal"** on their own within several years as natural undergrowth bursts forth in response to increased sunlight, thereby stabilizing the disturbed areas. Our **goal** is to **minimize impact** during this **recovery period**.

In Memoriam

This past winter Granite Lake lost a 31-year member of our community. Joan MacAllister passed away peacefully in her sleep on February 18, 2021, following an incredibly strong battle for her life. She was born in Keene on March 24, 1940 and, from her teen years on, developed a keen and deep love for Granite Lake through frequent summer weekend visits to the cottages of family friends. Lots of looking, years 'worth really, finally located a place to buy and Joan's dream would come true.

Her summers on the lake were to be consumed with hosting huge holiday family parties, lazy evening motorboat put-puts around the lake, endless hours of loon watching, and scorching sauna visits followed by snow angels or cooling plunges in the lake depending on the season. Joan never ever tired of simply sitting on the porch in her Kennedy rocker, iced Chardonnay in hand and lazily watching the lake, lake life, and the seasons pass by...absolutely loving every minute of her life on Granite Lake.



Nesting Eagles Loon Update

By Bob Maden

Our resident **Eagle Watcher**, Tyke Lavigne, retired from his prestigious Granite Lake Eagle Watcher post last summer as he and Gail moved away from the lake. We miss the Lavigne family and his faithful reporting on our Eagles. Tyke would be happy to know, as all of us are, that as of this **April** the **Granite Lake's** pair of mature **Eagles** are back on the nest at the island. The eagles were spotted over the winter doing major repairs to the nest which was damaged in an early September storm.

They were witnessed in mid/late March back on the nest! **Chris Martin, NH Audubon Society** raptor biologist, stopped by the Lavigne (now Labbe) shoreline on **March 25th**, and reported that **"the eagles are incubating in their island nest."** Since that time one of the pair has been in the nest while the mate is off doing what Eagle mates do, like maintaining the food supply.

As the timing of their return is very similar to last year, we can anticipate that if all goes well, **we'll see Eaglets in the nest by mid-May timeframe**. Last year, it was quite amazing to watch the growth from the Eaglet stage to that of a Fledging over a 10 to 12 week period.

Coincidentally to the eagles returning to their nest in **March, on April 4th**, Easter Sunday, a loon was back making its mournful cry. We understand from the **Loon Preservation Society** that the male loon that nested here for several years has moved to **Cold Spring Pond**.

The **GLA** has been in contact with the **Loon Preservation Society** to explore the deployment of an artificial nesting island with an avian guard to encourage them to once again raise a family on **Granite Lake**.

On **Umbagog lake in northern NH**, eagles and loons nest close to each other successfully, so it can be done without a nesting platform. While only 2-3% of loons are lost to eagles, we haven't had nesting loons since the eagles' nest was built! We will watch and wait to see if they nest on the island this year.

Chris Martin will be a **guest speaker** at our annual meeting and will discuss the Bald Eagle population recovery efforts here in New Hampshire, describe management and partnerships that have helped eagles, and discuss their **interactions with loons and other wildlife**. He looks forward to your questions!

Does anyone want to be the **official Granite Lake Eagle Watcher**?



Winter view of Spoonwood Pond from the Kulish Ledge Trail by Katharine Schillemat

During this time of *social distancing*, walking and hiking has taken a greater role in folks' lives. Thankfully, the town of **Nelson** has a number of great trails for all ages and abilities developed by the all volunteer **Nelson Trails Committee**. I will focus on a few of my favorites!

All of these trails are labeled with the **Nelson Trails Committee** yellow "**Black Fly**" sign and have mailboxes with trail guides.

The Murdough Hill Meander: This trail begins at a parking area on the left on Granite Lake Road about a quarter mile west of the intersection with Murdough Hill Road and West Shore Road. The trail is approximately a 1.5 mile loop, which crosses the brook which flows out of Granite Lake and through an old mill site, then along the wetland almost to the state highway bridge before turning uphill. The trail loops through conifers, then mixed hardwoods, and skirts well behind all the houses on Murdough Hill Road and back down the hill to the brook and across two bridges and the mill site again.

Bailey Brook Trail/Kulish Ledge Trail/Holt Trail: These trails all begin at a parking area on Old Stoddard Road. The Bailey Brook trail follows Old Stoddard Road for about ¼ mile before turning into the woods on the right. The trail follows Bailey Brook upstream by one waterfall, along the brook and to a second waterfall and a mill site. This trail also features two cellar holes, and loops back on an old road to the parking area.

Kulish Ledge trail follows the old road into the woods before turning right and toward **Bailey Brook** below a beaver pond. The trail follows the edge of the beaver pond, then turns uphill to follow a stone wall. At this point, one can continue uphill on the **Kulish Ledge Trail** to spectacular views overlooking **Spoonwood Pond** and **Nubanusit Lake**, or turn right over the stone wall to follow the **Holt Trail** along more of the beaver pond, wetland and **Bailey Brook**. Both trails meet at the top of **Osgood Hill**, so one can do a three mile loop on these trails.

All of these *trails* are well marked and maintained by the **Nelson Trails Committee**. There are more trails available as well. For more information on trails in Nelson, contact **Kathy Schillemat, Chair of the Nelson Conservation Commission**, at kschillemat@yahoo.com or **Rick Church, Chair of the Nelson Trails Committee**, rickbetsey@gmail.com.



MEET

BILL

AND

LYRIC working guide dog

A slice of paradise is how **Bill** and **Sue DeMaio** describe **Granite Lake**. They have been renting at Granite Lake since 2014. After that first year, they said they were hooked. Being avid kayakers, the lake was just perfect. The quiet boat activity and abundance of kayakers, canoers and paddle boarders made the lake the perfect place. Not to mention the loons, eagles and other nature that resides in the area.

Bill and Sue come to the lake for three weeks each year to relax and get away from their hectic schedules. What they love about the area is the sense of community. Although they are not property owners, they were welcomed in that very first year and say they come back for the people they have met as much as for the lake itself.

Bill is the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for the town of Newington, CT. He has been in the Parks and Rec field for over 40 years. He is also the President of the ADA CT Coalition. **Bill is blind.** He was diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa, a slow blinding disease which has now robbed him of all his vision. **You can see Bill walking the roads around the lake several times a day with his Fidelco German Shepherd guide dogs, Lyric (working) and Izaak (retired).** He loves the modest traffic flow of the surrounding roads.

Last year Bills' dog Lyric was confronted several times by dogs off leash and one attack was quite frightening to both Bill and his guide dog. Guide dogs are trained to ignore and not to react to other dogs, and what we don't realize is that an attack on a guide dog could ruin its performance and therefore it would not be able to do its job any longer. A guide dog is both expensive - it costs over \$60,000, takes two years to train - and of course is priceless to the blind person.

Bill would like sighted people to know that for the blind person, not being able to see where the unleashed dog is coming from and unable to protect his own dog, leaves him and his guide dog vulnerable and helpless during such an encounter. *"It's an awful situation for all involved."* Even if the wandering dog is "friendly", a guide dog's task is to devote his or her attention to the job; guiding his blind partner and allowing him to feel secure. That is why **you don't pet a service animal; it takes its focus off of the job.**

If you have a dog, please maintain control of or leash your dog; if you lease your cottage, please make sure your renters do the same. This is in accordance with Nelson and Stoddard laws. By state law, if a person, or their animal, causes harm to a service animal, they may be ordered to pay for the replacement costs of the service animal.

Moon

Rising

Water Quality Report

By Tom Newcombe

The 2020 water sampling season was atypical for 2 reasons: **COVID-19** and the **drought conditions** that persisted for much of the summer.

The **pandemic imposed staffing restrictions** at the **DES lab**, which meant no intern visits and limited sample processing capacity. We could only deliver one sample to the lab, so our report does not reflect the typical averaging of 2 or 3 samples spread over the season.

The **drought** resulted in much reduced **storm water runoff** around the lake, causing **very favorable turbidity, phosphorus, and water transparency readings** in the data.

This correlation proves the **importance of continuing our efforts to reduce erosion and siltation** during heavy rain events, especially along the gravel roads but also on everyone's shorefront property.

Also noted was a **worsening** historical **trend** in conductivity / chloride data, which indicates that **road salts** are making their way into the **lake**. The highest concentrations have been measured in the Inlet Brook, likely due to

the upstream stretch of Rt.9 which runs next to Nye Meadow.

Looking ahead to the **2021 season**, final **DES lab protocols** are still in flux but it appears likely that we'll have an intern visit this summer to collect biological data, and lab capacity to process multiple lake samples!

The Granite Lake Village District

will hold its **annual meeting** **Saturday, June 26th at 10 am** on **Sandy Beach**.

The meeting will cover the approval of the articles in the district's annual warrant which includes the **election of officers**: 3 year term as Commissioner, Phil Hamilton; one year term, Sally Ripley, Secretary; Bob Maden, Treasurer; and John Halter, Moderator.

Last year the commissioners repaired the gate valve which will help them to easily and more safely raise and lower the dam's gate.

This year the dam will receive its bi-annual inspection by the State of New Hampshire. All legal voting residents in the watershed with lake property or beach rights are invited to attend the meeting.

In Memoriam

Bob Deverill, a longtime resident of Keene and summer resident of Granite Lake, passed away on Saturday, June 13, 2020, from complications of COPD, with his daughters by his side. Bob was born on Jan 22, 1946, in Darien, Conn. Bob joined the family insurance business, WJ Deverill Insurance Agency, in Darien, Conn where he and his wife, Tina Turek, raised their two daughters, Robin and Reed. After he retired in 1999, he moved to Keene and purchased his summer cottage on West Shore Rd.

CPR / AED Training Course for GLA Members

For about a decade, there have been three **AEDs (Automatic External Defibrillators)** at Granite Lake. One is in a **kitchen cabinet at the Chapel-by-the-Lake**, one at **Nicoletti residence on N. Shore Rd**, and one at **the Englands home on Cameron Cove off of West Shore Road**.

When an individual suddenly collapses, the cause could very well be a cardiac arrest, for which **BLS (Basic Life Support)** which consists of compression of the chest along with assisted ventilation, as well as defibrillation (**shocking the heart with an AED**) can be lifesaving if these procedures are promptly and appropriately applied.

Over the years, the **Granite Lake Association** has financially supported courses for **GLA members in BLS and AED**, with an average of 10 GLA members taking the course each year. (Because of COVID-19, no classes were offered last summer.)

The **BLS/AED course** lasts about three hours, and in previous years, we have scheduled one course on mid-summer weekday evenings at the Chapel-by-the-Lake. In recent years, they have been taught by **certified BLS/AED instructors** through the **Keene Family YMCA**. The courses consist of discussion as well as hands-on use of mannequins for practice of chest compressions, assisted ventilation, and use of the defibrillator.

In that no **one was recertified in 2020**, we plan to have **two classes this year**, one in late **July** and one in early **August**. Sign-up will be at the **GLA Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 17th**. If you cannot attend the annual meeting and would like to be certified, please contact **Bob Englund at 603-847-9727 or at bobenglund42@gmail.com** to sign up.

Please Be Aware the Wake of
your Boats Harmfully Impact
Nesting Loons

Granite Lake would Like To See
The Return of The Loons



Photo by Damian Largier

An Update on Wake Boat Legislation in New Hampshire

by Bob Maden

There are **two bills pending in the New Hampshire legislature on wake boats**. The first is **HB 229** which creates a definition of a wake boat. Having a statutory definition is the first step toward any kind of management of wake boating in New Hampshire. While there has been a strong public response in favor of the bill, the boating industry is very opposed to it and has worked hard in New Hampshire and in other states across the country to prevent any kind of wake boat related legislation from being passed. The **House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee** has recommended by a vote of **13-8** that the bill should not be adopted. It had not been heard by the entire House when we prepared the newsletter. It may be tabled for a year and the committee may do more research on the topic.

The second bill is **HB115** which adds the activity of “**wake surfing**” to existing safety legislation for other towed water sports. The bill requires participants to wear a life jacket and have a spotter and a few other safety provisions. Wake surfing is growing in popularity in New Hampshire, and as a relatively new activity, it is important to add it to safety regulations. This came out of consensus from the **Wake Boat Study Commission**.

Many of our members have expressed concerns on the impact of wake (ballast) boats on shoreline erosion, the potential spread of aquatic species, and disruption to other water activities – kayaking, canoeing. You can do a number of things over the course of the summer, including reporting incidents to **Marine Patrol** and your **legislators**. This is evidence for the **Department of Safety** and the legislature that there are issues that need to be addressed. **NH LAKES** is working on a platform that will allow members to document their experiences and encounters with wake boats (both positive and negative). And, as always, signing up for **NH LAKES Advocacy Alerts** is a good way to keep up to date on what NH Lakes is working on.

This is your lake. Stay informed. Speak up !!

The GLA asks you to be “LakeSmart” !!

By Bob Maden

What happens on your property affects our lake— whether you live along the lake or miles from it.

The NH Lakes LakeSmart Lake-Friendly Living Program helps ensure that future generations inherit a lake with a healthy future.

LakeSmart is an **education, evaluation, and recognition** program that is free, voluntary, and non-regulatory. It includes an evaluation process to determine how **lake-friendly** your property and activities are.

The evaluation covers driveway and parking areas, structures, wastewater treatment systems, yard and play areas. For properties along the water, the shoreline and shallow water areas of the lake are included.

It's easy! The first step to becoming **LakeSmart** is to take an online self-assessment survey from the comfort of your home computer. **This survey** will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and mostly asks simple ‘true’ and ‘false’ questions.

You can find all the info you need to know about **NH Lakes LakeSmart Program** and the on-line assessment at <https://nhlakes.org/lakesmart>, or by calling 603.226.0299, or by emailing lakesmart@nhlakes.org.

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Granite Lake Association

SATURDAY JULY, 17th, 2021 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 or group }

Please bring your own chair & mask

Join Us

President - Bob Maden
Vice President - Derek Walton
Officer at Large - Damian Largier
Treasurer - Tom Newcombe
Secretary - Sally Ripley
Membership - Joann Bartolotta
Newsletter Editor - Cayla Pagnucci



AGENDA 2021

Salutation and Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Remembrances / Recognition of members
Secretary's Report / Sally Ripley, Secretary

Guest Speaker - Chris Martin, raptor biologist, NH Audubon Society

"Bald eagle population recovery efforts and their interactions with loons and other wildlife."

Treasurer's Reports / Financial Report - Tom Newcombe, Treasurer

- Water Quality VLAP Report

Lake Host Report - Sharon O'Brien - Jagulli & Patty Maden

Covid 19 Update, CPR / AED training - Bob England

Membership update - Joann Bartolotta

Unfinished Business

Chapel by the Lake / Sandy Beach donation 2020

New Business

Date for next annual meeting: Saturday, July 16th, 9:30 am

Chapel by the Lake / Sandy Beach donation 2021

GLA Picnic

Questions / Concerns

Guest Speaker: Christian Martin

Chris Martin is a **raptor biologist** who has worked for **NH Audubon** since 1990. He has focused on recovery of the state's endangered and threatened birds of prey in close collaboration with **NH Fish & Game**.

Chris recruits, trains, and supervises volunteer field observers who help monitor these birds all across the state.

"I'm no health specialist, but I do believe that immersing yourself in Nature is great therapy during these stressful times."



Potluck Picnic with the Band

**Stay Tuned Watch
For Notices
Around The Lake**

**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 Route 123 N in
Stoddard.

Davis Public Library is open more
hours this year than ever before.
They **offer 24/7 Wi-fi**. Just call
603-446-857. for the password
davispubliclibrary@gmail.com

OPEN

Monday & Friday **3pm -7pm**
Tuesdays & Wednesdays **1-5pm**
Thursday **10am - 5pm**
Saturday **10am - 2pm**

You can also find events and
activities listed on its website...just
enter the library name and address
into the browser.

They generally have **childrens'
story hour** on **Thursday at 10am**
Also in the works are plans for our
annual book sale date...will be
announced and soon we will be
taking donations.

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

Sally Ripley, Vice President

The Friends of Davis Public Library

Chapel-by-the-Lake

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

Worship services will be held
Sundays at 10 a.m outside or
in time inside

with Pastor Bill Taylor

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

**Check For Updated Notices
on the Church bulletin**

A Note From Your Editor

Thank you for your timely
submissions of articles and photos
for the Granite Lake News edition
2021 May

If you would like to submit articles
and / or a photo for next years "
Granite Lake News " please send
to pagniucci.cayla1@gmail.com

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 !

Feel Free to contact me at
617-877-9449

Thank You Cayla Pagniucci

Granite Lake Association
Bartolata
150 North Shore Road
Munsonville NH
03457



May 2021 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 change of address or email