



Granite Lake News

Photo by Jeff Saunders

Working together to preserve our lake

May 2022

A Letter from the President of the Granite Lake Association, Bob Maden

New Hampshire lakes have a special place in our memories, from summer camps to family vacations at the summer cottage. Whether you watch a movie like “On Golden Pond” or read a book set on a lake, it brings back memories of lake living – family barbecues, checker games on a screen porch, a tube ride, fireworks on the 4th, jumping from the cliffs, quiet kayak paddles with friends, listening to the call of the loons. Nothing seems to change from year to year in our long term memories. And we cherish that feeling of continuity from generation to generation on the lake.

Yet each summer season has its own unique memories and brings unique challenges. After experiencing a summer of very low water levels in 2020, last summer the lake was at the top of, or over, many docks around the lake. Eighteen inches of rain in July not only saturated the watershed and raised the lake to dangerous levels for the dam, but it seemed to rain on most every weekend. We had significantly fewer visiting boats; our lake hosts inspected 720 boats, down from a record level of 1328 the previous year. 2021 provided some soggy weekend memories!

The GLA was formed to help preserve Granite Lake so that future generations can share in those happy memories of lake living. To that end, we have been active with the Towns of Nelson and Stoddard with projects to maintain the water quality of the lake.

After many years (really decades!) of advocacy by the GLA (and most recently by former President, Bill Steiniger), the Town of Nelson paved the firehouse driveway this past fall eliminating one of the worst runoffs of silt into the lake.

GLA reintroduced our Watershed Management Plan of 2011 to the Town of Stoddard this winter and requested that the town apply ARPA funds made available by Cheshire County to improve storm water management, implementing some of the recommendations from the Watershed Management Plan. The GLA has been informed by the Town Administrator that culvert and catch basin work is planned to take place along North Shore Road this summer. We look forward to that work and will continue to advocate for ongoing maintenance and undertaking additional recommendations from the report.

The GLA explored the acquisition of a brining applicator with the Town of Nelson to reduce the amount of chloride that runs off into the lake. While we were not successful this year, we will continue to work with the town to help reduce the road salt runoff. With over 30 years of water quality testing reports, the GLA has the data to demonstrate to the towns the impact that road maintenance and salting has on our lake, and the GLA will continue to advocate for best practices to preserve our lake.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the President of the lake association the past two years. I have a deeper appreciation of the foresight of the founders of the association and a keener understanding of what makes Granite Lake a special place. I hope that you enjoy the upcoming season and make some special memories with your family and friends this summer.

Granite Lake Hosts Begin Their 21st Year Protecting our Lake

The Granite Lake Association completed its 20th year of participation in the Lake Host Program, coordinated by the New Hampshire Lakes Association (NHLakes), logging over 850 hours to protect our lake last summer!

For those of you not familiar with the Lake Host Program, it is a formal way of trying to keep New Hampshire lakes free from invasive species of plant and animal life. Volunteers and paid employees staff public boat ramps across the state and offer free inspections of watercraft, looking for plant and animal matter that might be hiding on a boat. These workers also inform boaters about the “Clean, Drain and Dry” rule for boats.

We are proud to be one of the lakes that initiated a Lake Host Program in 2002, the first year of the program. There are now 78 lakes and 101 boat ramps participating. During the life of the program, there have been 1,650

“saves” at 61 water bodies, including some at Granite Lake.

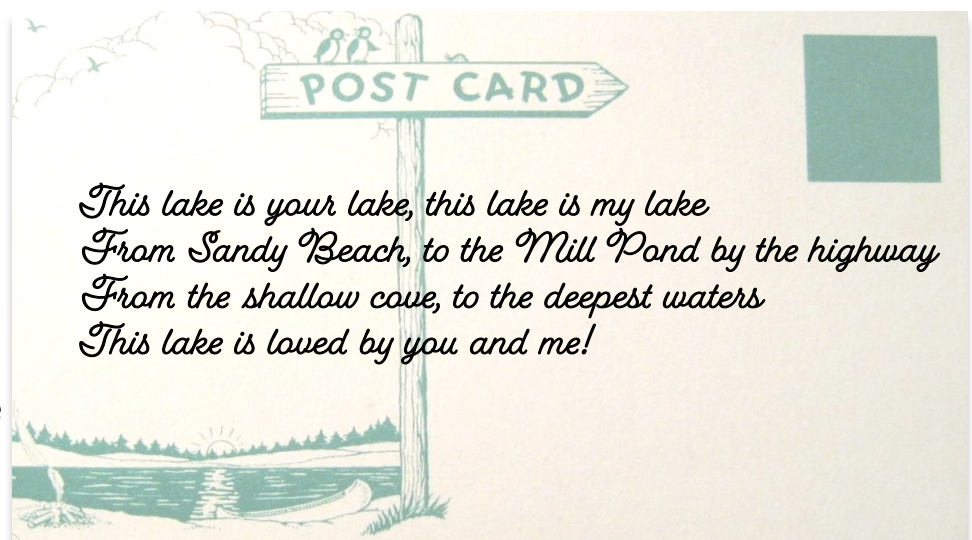
In 2021 our boat ramp was staffed by 5 paid lake hosts and 18 volunteers who are trained in how to inspect boats. Each volunteer donates at least two hours of time every week for an impressive total of 414.5 hours.

Our ability to maintain this program over the past 20 years has been made possible by continued monetary support from the towns of Nelson and Stoddard. As always, we give all



of our hosts, both volunteers and employees, a big thank you. If you would like to be part of this important endeavor, please contact one of our Co-coordinators, Sharon O’Brien-Iagulli or Patty Maden.

And thanks to Sharon O’Brien-Iagulli for sharing these lyrics, sung to the tune of “This Land is Your Land” by Woody Guthrie. Let’s all sing:



In Memoriam

Dave Costin, Professor Emeritus of Education at Keene State College, and resident of Granite Lake since 1990, passed away after a brief illness on Sept. 19, 2021. Dave was an active member of the GLA, and while serving as its treasurer in 1991 was instrumental in establishing the Granite Lake Village District. Dave served as a commissioner from 1992 to 2000. Those wishing to make a donation in his memory may do so to the Costin Family Scholarship Fund at Keene State College, 229 Main Street, Keene.

Update on the Nesting Eagles

by Sally Ripley

The eagles wintered over here at the lake and appear to have bred. Either one or the other has been in the nest for some time. We hope we'll be having one or more chicks again this summer. Incubation lasts 34-36 days; then for the next 2 weeks one or the other adult stays with chicks while the other finds food and brings it back to the nest where they break it into small pieces and feed it to the chicks. Hope to see them peeking over the side soon!



In Memoriam

John D. Shea died at his house at Granite Lake in November 2020. He moved to Granite Lake after retiring from Peerless Insurance in 1996. John was active in politics representing District 2 in the New Hampshire Executive Council from 2006 to 2010. Prior to that, he was on the Keene City Council and the General Court. He served as Town Treasurer of Nelson beginning in 2011. Even in retirement, John Shea was often in motion, whether it was running for public office, visiting Scotland or simply walking laps at the Keene Family YMCA. When he took a moment to rest, he enjoyed spending time on Granite Lake.



In Memoriam

Ronald Whitney Slayton passed away on Feb. 7, 2022, at Maplewood Nursing Home in Westmoreland, after seeing his wife of many decades safely ensconced in the Maplewood memory care unit. Ron and Sara Shepherd lived in Westmoreland and then Munsonville for many years. Ron and Sara spent many hours on their dock along West Shore Road greeting neighbors walking by. Donations in Ron's honor can be made to the Bixby Free Memorial Library (bixbylibrary.org) in Vergennes, VT, or VT Public Radio (vpr.org).

❁ Granite Lake Village District Celebrates Thirty Years ❁

Thirty years ago, on the 23rd of June, 1992, several dozen residents from the towns of Stoddard and Nelson assembled at the Chapel by the Lake in Munsonville to decide the fate of the Munsonville dam. Before them was an article to establish a village district for the sole purpose of the impoundment of water at Granite Lake. After a lengthy discussion, the matter was brought to a written ballot vote and the measure passed by a two thirds majority – 25 yeas, 12 nays. The name was decided – Granite Lake Village District - and officers were chosen for a term of one year until the first annual meeting in 1993. Commissioners were David Costin, David Knight and Bob Woods; Clerk and Treasurer, Agnes Yocono; Moderator, John Halter. The journey to create the village district was a long and challenging road, but thanks to the residents of the lake and the foresight and leadership of the Granite Lake Association, the Munsonville dam was saved.

When the dam was built in 1814, it was for one purpose - to provide water power for the Munsonville cotton mill. By 1949 the dam had no value for a business enterprise but it had become important for the growing summer community and camps around the lake. That year the lake community formed and incorporated the Granite Lake Association (GLA) “to promote recreational activities and to preserve the natural resources of the area.” One of the first acts by the newly formed lake association was to acquire the dam and “...all rights of flowage connected with Granite Lake...” With that acquisition came the responsibility of maintaining and repairing an aging dam. A great

move for the lake community; a very challenging endeavor for a private lake association.

The GLA faced a major financial crisis between 1978 and 1981 when the dam was declared a ‘menace’ by the NH Water Resource Board and needed \$15,000 (about \$67,000 today) for repairs but had no authority to raise the money. The GLA Dam Committee devised a “fair share formula”. Each property owner was assessed a voluntary assessment of \$0.15 per foot of water frontage to raise the funds. The fund-raising goal was exceeded and the repairs were completed in November, 1981.

The second challenge of dam ownership was obtaining affordable liability insurance. By 1990, it was estimated that insurance would cost between \$25,000 and \$40,000 for the dam and island. The existence of the GLA and ownership of the island and dam were at risk. Jim Chandler contacted the law firm of Wiggins and Nourie in Manchester in January, 1991, who responded to Jim,

“...the neighborhood would be well advised to form a village district.”

The Towns of Stoddard and Nelson were formally petitioned to establish the district in June, 1991, and received a very unfavorable reception. A Nelson Selectman was quoted in the Keene Sentinel in July saying, “You’ll be left with a bureaucratic entity that will live forever, without the volunteers necessary to keep it afloat.” In October, the Board of Selectmen in Stoddard replied to the GLA’s petition with a unanimous re-

jection, “The Selectmen of Stoddard cannot support a Village District.”

The leadership of the GLA was persistent and the towns finally agreed in January, 1992, to the village district and its proposed boundaries, setting the stage for the historic meeting to approve the district on June 23rd. In February, 1993, the deed for the dam was transferred by the GLA to the Granite Lake Village District.

The Village District has had many “volunteers necessary to keep it afloat” over the past 30 years beginning with the initial officers – David Costin, David Knight, Tom Yocono, and Bob Woods - and several who served for decades (Bob Woods, Phil Hamilton). The next generation of commissioners, Butch Roeder, Victor Pepin, and Derek MacAllister, has stepped forward to work with long-serving veterans - Moderator John Halter and Clerk Sally Ripley.

Having a Village District resolves the financial and liability problems faced by the GLA during its 42 years of stewardship of the dam, and it lets the community feel confident about its ability to manage the waters of Granite Lake for generations to come.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the GLA leaders and residents who had the foresight to acquire the dam and later to fight for the creation of the Village District. As the Village District celebrates its 30th birthday, we all say thank you... and Happy Birthday!

Source: GLA Archives currently stored at the Historical Society of Cheshire County.



Sullivan Country Store

Reopening this June!!

The Sullivan Country Store, which closed more than a year ago, is set to reopen in early June. Megan Lafaso Hercher and her husband, Will Hercher, purchased the store with an attached home many months ago. The store required extensive renovations and a replacement of the wastewater system that has to be completed before they can obtain the appropriate licenses to be able to reopen. They are in the homestretch and looking forward to opening the doors again in early June.

Megan and Will wanted the self-sufficiency of owning and operating their own business, and wanted the feeling of community that would come with living in a place like Sullivan. Megan wrote to the GLA, "We understand the need of such a store; we understand and want to honor the integrity of what it has been for so many years for our local communities and passersby alike. We feel lucky in knowing that the store will allow us the opportunity to serve our communities; we thrive when we know people are depending on us."

They plan to offer essential local goods and services. Hours will be 6:00 am to 6:00 pm and they are willing to listen to the community if different hours are necessary. For more information on the Sullivan Country Store's reopening, visit their Facebook & Instagram pages: www.facebook.com/NHcountrystore www.instagram.com/sullivancountrystore and they also encourage people to engage with them via email sullivancountrystore@gmail.com

Munsonville Market Day

August 13th from 9am until noon

Join speaker Alan Rumrill (Director, Historical Society of Cheshire County) at 10:00 as he discusses The Munsonville Store and its place in the history of Munsonville. This community event will recreate the Munsonville Store for a day at the Chapel-by-the-Lake and feature music, local goods for sale, homemade pie and coffee, vintage penny candy from Life Is Sweet and much more. Reunite with friends and neighbors to share memories of the store. In addition, there will be an "antique roadshow" style appraisal opportunity with Dan Yelin. Dig out your antiques, letters and mementoes to share the story of your interesting local artifact or antique and learn its value or place in history! **Seeking Vendors!** Email Jen Pepin: jlpep3@gmail.com for more information.



The Little Free Library at 667 Granite Lake Road

Munsonville has a New Library

— a little free library

As you walk around the lake, take a few minutes to browse Granite Lake's new Little Free Library installed last summer by former librarian, Eva Roeder and her husband Butch. The library is located on the south side of Granite Lake Road across from their home at 667 Granite Lake Road. The Little Free Library is a nonprofit organization based in Hudson, Wisconsin, that was founded in 2012. Its mission is to be a catalyst for building community, inspiring readers, and expanding book access for all through a global network of volunteer-led Little Free Libraries.

Butch and Eva constructed the Little Free Library, and Eva, with help from her kids and grandkids, selected a wide range of books to get the library off to a great start. Community members can borrow whatever tickles their fancy and can donate books that they have enjoyed to share with others. The Little Free Library is open 24 hours a day from May 1st until September 30th.

Visit our new Munsonville Little Free Library; grab a book to enjoy by the water, or to read to the children. And leave a favorite book behind for a neighbor to enjoy!

A FRIENDLY REMINDER For 3 weeks in August Bill DeMaio will walk the roads around the lake several times a day with his Fidelco German Shepherd guide dog Lyrice. If you have a dog, please remember to maintain control of or leash your dog during this time; if you lease your cottage, please make sure your renters do the same.

Water Quality Report

By Tom Newcombe

The 2021 Granite Lake report from the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) was based on two water sampling collections, one in July and one in August. The July collection was done after a week of heavy rain storms, which caused visible erosion and siltation at several collection sites. Lab results showed higher than usual turbidity and phosphorus readings at these sites, which correlate with increased risk of cyanobacteria blooms. Fortunately, average levels for the lake overall, based on samples from the Deep Spot, were in line with favorable historical trends. However, water clarity measured at the deep spot with a view scope was worse in both July and August than historical readings going back 20 years, and the collected lake water was off-color. This shows the cumulative negative effects of nutrient loading from culverts and tributaries, as well as lake bottom disturbance in shallower areas, caused by heavy stormwater runoff.

The water quality team will continue focusing in a systematic way, in partnership with Nelson and Stoddard

selectmen, on improvements to the drainage and culvert systems along our gravel roads to mitigate erosion and siltation at vulnerable sites. Our DES report contains a recommendation that drainage and erosion control improvements along roads, as well as on private shoreline property, be designed to handle extreme storm events on a regular basis, based on weather and climate trends. Lakefront property owners are encouraged to participate in the 'LakeSmart' program sponsored by NH Lakes. A booklet of practical lake stewardship practices is available on their web site.

We have not had a DES biologist visit to Granite Lake the past 3 years due to lab staffing constraints and Covid protocols restricting DES field work. We were just notified that DES will schedule a lab intern visit this summer. Data taken by the biologist includes dissolved oxygen and water temp. at 1-meter intervals from lake bottom to the surface at the deep spot, plus a microscopic analysis of phytoplankton species. Those

measurements are important for tracking longer-term trends and have remained stable in Granite Lake over the years.

In summary, Granite Lake water quality remains extremely high compared with most other lakes in New Hampshire. Our challenge is to stay pro-active at preserving this uniquely high water quality through continued vigilance, monitoring, and preventive actions.

The Granite Lake Village District will recognize former commissioners **Dave Costin** and **Bob Woods** for their service to the community. There will be a brief ceremony at the dam when their names will be added to the plaque. The recognition will be held immediately after the annual meeting of the Granite Lake Association, on **Saturday, July 16, 2022.**

CPR/AED Training Course for GLA Members

For at least a decade, the Granite Lake Association has sponsored courses in CPR/AED (Cardio-Pulmonary-Resuscitation and Automatic-Electric-Defibrillation). Knowledge of these procedures can save a life in the event of a cardiac arrest.

The date of this year's CPR/AED will be on a weekday evening in the second half of July and will be taught by a certified instructor of the Keene Family YMCA. We expect that the GLA will agree to sponsor the class once again this year.

Certification in the CRP/AED training for participants lasts for two years, and we urge Granite Lake residents to participate in the class. If you previously took the class prior to 2020, recertification is needed. Note also that there are three defibrillators located around the lake, one at the Chapel-by-the-Lake, one at the Nicoletti home on 210 North Shore Road, and one at the Englund home on Cameron Cove, close to the end of West Shore Road.

The date of the course will be announced early in June, and the course will be held at the Chapel. There will be a sign-up sheet at the annual meeting or you can contact Bob Englund at 603-847-9727 or at bobenglund42@gmail.com to sign up for the course.

An Update on New Hampshire Docks Registration by Derek Walton

NH DES has initiated a new voluntary dock registration process effective June 15, 2021. What does this mean for those of us with docks on Granite Lake? Well, as it turns out, not much. For existing permanent docks, the new process allows for cheaper and more streamlined dock repair relative to the usual permitting process. However, due to Granite Lake's small size, only seasonal docks are allowed, which typically do not require permits for repair or replacement.

The registration process can help owners of seasonal docks who no longer have documentation that their dock was legally constructed. Registration is sufficient to demonstrate compliance with dock regulations and can be obtained with evidence that the dock existed prior to January 1, 2000. This is typically much easier than proving that the dock existed prior to the seasonal dock law introduced in 1978. For more detailed information on voluntary dock registration see <https://www.des.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt341/files/documents/wb-28.pdf>.



Nelson in Common

Community Resources for Nelson and Munsonville, NH

The Black Fly Express is your weekly link to what's happening in Nelson and Munsonville, with community news, reminders of events from the N.I.C. calendar, and articles on the website. Sign up for the free weekly email newsletter at [The Black Fly Express - Nelson In Common](#)

Other ways to stay up to date and in touch: **Facebook** has a private group (ask to join) called **Granite Lake NH Home Owners**. Only members can see what is posted so great for lost and found and asking Granite Lake relevant questions. Also, Facebook's **I Love Nelson** page (public group) and follow **Nelson.In.Common** on Instagram.



Phil Hamilton Memorial Bench

The Granite Lake Association installed a memorial bench in memory of Phil Hamilton who died after a short illness on June 25, 2021. Phil served as an officer in the GLA and as a commissioner on the Granite Lake Village District from 2002 to 2021. The bench was made possible by the generous donations of members of the Granite Lake Association and his friends. Please join the community at the Granite Lake Picnic on Sunday, August 21, 2022 and enjoy a view of the lake from Phil's Bench.



Please Be Aware That the Wake of your Boat Is
Harmful To Nesting Loons
Granite Lake would Like To See The Return of
The Loons

The 73rd Annual Meeting of the Granite Lake Association

SATURDAY, JULY 16th, 2022, 10:00 AM CHAPEL-BY-THE-LAKE

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.

AGENDA 2022

Salutation and Call to Order	Bob Maden
Pledge of Allegiance	Bob Maden
Secretary's Report	Sally Ripley, Secretary
Speaker: "Cyanobacteria in NH Lakes"	Amanda McQuaid
Remembrances	Bob Maden
GLA Annual Reports:	
Treasurer's Reports	Tom Newcombe, Treasurer
Membership Report	Joann Bartolotta
Lake Host Report	Sharon O'Brien-Iagulli/Patty Maden
Water Quality Report	Tom Newcombe
AED / CPR Training 2022	Bob England
Nominating Committee	Nick Nicoletti and Judy Walton
President	Derek Walton
Vice President	Damian Largier
Officer at Large	Mitch Greenwald
Treasurer	Tom Newcombe
Secretary	Sally Ripley

New Business:	Bob Maden
Approval of AED/CPR training costs	
Date for 2023 annual meeting	
Donations to Chapel by the Lake for meeting space	
Transfer of Money to Water Quality Fund, <i>in memory of Phil Hamilton</i>	
Other Business	

Motion to adjourn

List of Officers and Committee Chairs

President - Bob Maden
Vice President - Derek Walton
Officer at Large - Damian Largier
Treasurer - Tom Newcombe
Secretary - Sally Ripley
Membership - Joann Bartolotta
Newsletter Editor – Jen Pepin
Water Quality – Tom Newcombe
Lake Host – Sharon O'Brien-Iagulli and Patty Maden

Meet the Guest Speaker



Dr. Amanda (Murby) McQuaid is the Director of the UNH Lakes Lay Monitoring Program with a joint appointment as the State Specialist in Ecotoxicology and an Associate Professor for UNH Cooperative Extension. Amanda previously worked with NHDES as the Beach and Cyanobacteria Program Coordinator in the Watershed Management Bureau. Her expertise is in lake ecology with a focus on cyanobacteria, toxicity and plankton dynamics. She supports citizen science and outreach regarding lake water quality issues and harmful algal/cyanobacterial bloom monitoring. Amanda is very excited to work with volunteer monitors on lakes this summer!



Potluck Picnic with the Band Sunday August 21 at 2:30

Potluck Picnic with the Nelson Town Band performing on Sandy Beach Commons at 4PM. Everyone is invited. Call Donna Hamilton 847-3288 or Angel Nicoletti 847-9547 to VOLUNTEER. Many hands and many dishes needed! Thank you!

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. Access their new website for programs for all ages and new numerous electronic resources. You may search the catalogue, reserve books, renew books electronically. You may easily access ebooks through LIBBY also.

Our librarian Inga Dellea or any of the staff will be able to help you at **603 446-6591**.

Masks are suggested but not required.

OPEN HOURS

Monday & Friday **3pm - 7pm**
Tues & Weds **1-5pm**
Thursday **10am - 5pm**
Saturday **10am - 2pm**

Olivia Rodham Memorial Library

The **ORML Library** is located at 7 Nelson Common Road in Nelson. They offer a wide variety of programs, a seed catalog, storytime and more.

The new website highlights events and activities including Thursday children's storytime, Teen clubs, gardening events and more. Don't forget the free or discounted museum passes!

OPEN HOURS

Monday & Thurs **1pm - 6pm**
Wednesday **3-6pm**
Saturday **10am - 12pm**

Chapel-by-the-Lake

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

Currently no services but on going events are advertised on www.NelsonInCommon.org

*Thank you Cayla
Pagnucci for six
years of service as
volunteer Editor of
Granite Lake
News!!!*

Thank you for your timely submissions of articles and photos for the May 2022 edition of Granite Lake News

If you would like to submit articles and/or a photo for next year's edition, please send to jlpep3@gmail.com or 603-283-8634.

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!

Thank You!
Jen Pepin

Granite Lake Association
Joann Bartolotta
150 North Shore Road
Munsonville, NH
03457

May 2022 The Granite Lake Association is a member supported non profit organization.
Your membership contribution is now a (501c3) tax *deductible charitable donation*.
Please mail your check to: Granite Lake Association with the information outlined below 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? Lake Host, Picnic, Executive Committee, Newsletter, Web Site

Help us keep our mailing list up to date!

As we continue move to an email based newsletter platform, please send your current email address to **GRANITELAKENH1949@GMAIL.COM** and inform us if you wish to opt out of paper newsletters or of any changes to your address!