



GRANITE LAKE NEWS

➤➤➤ **WORKING TOGETHER TO PRESERVE OUR LAKE**

MAY 2024 <<<<

A LETTER FROM THE GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT DEREK WALTON

As president of an organization charged with the protection of Granite Lake's water quality, I found the summer of 2023 to be distressing and humbling. At the time of our annual meeting, the lake was the color of chocolate milk .. quite a difference from our usual state-leading water clarity of 8 meters. Moreover, the water was so full of nutrients that we're lucky a string of warm sunny days didn't spur a cyanobacteria bloom and close the lake. Here I thought we were well positioned water quality wise, having implemented many of our 2011 watershed management plan's recommendations. What happened?

It is tempting to simply chalk last summer's woes up to a 100 year rain event and hope that we're now in the clear for a while. This would be shortsighted as it is evident that intense storms with flooding rains are becoming more and more common. Best to learn from last summer's "stress test" and work to bolster failing elements in our drainage system.

As we walked the lake during and shortly after the big storm, we saw that some of the worst erosion occurred in areas of recent development. Disturbed soil is no longer nicely anchored to mature vegetation and acts less like a sponge than natural soil.

With hard rains, there is the risk of high velocity water flow which can carry soil into the lake. This is what we saw. The rains were so intense that even areas with erosion mitigation suffered.

Granite Lake Rd (GLR) was impassible after the storm. In at least four places, the flow of stormwater overwhelmed the culverts under the road. Water poured across the road taking portions of the lake-side road bank with it as it cascaded into the lake. The situation at the intersection with Boys Camp Rd near the boat ramp was particularly bad, with storm flow leaving baseball sized stones strewn across the road.

Since the storm, GLA volunteers have been working hard to resolve issues highlighted by the events of last summer. Joe Curtain deserves special mention for his work getting NH DOT on site and solving the puzzle of Boys Camp Road (BCR). A large portion of the drainage problem here was traced to a blocked storm drain hundreds of feet up BCR at the intersection with Rt 9. Due to the blockage, storm water poured down the dirt road itself rather than being directed to a natural stream. The blockage has now been cleared and additional drainage work due to be completed this Spring will complete the remediation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

GRANITE LAKE COUNTS ON YOU!

(to the tune of Jingle Bells)

Granite Lake. Granite Lake.
Wonderful you are.
Surrounding is community
and it's the best by far-r!
Granite Lake. Granite Lake.
Shores are so pristine.
Be dedicated to the cause
to make sure boats are clean.

Swimming in the lake
Or going for boat rides
Family Bar-B-Ques
And watching eagles fly
There's so much to go
And so we must be keen.
All of us can do a part
to keep our treasure clean!

Oh Granite Lake. Granite Lake.
Wonderful you are.
Surrounding is community
and it's the best by far-r!
Volunteer or get paid.
It is up to you.
There are just so many things
that YOU and YOU can do!

LAKE LOVERS WANTED

VOLUNTEERS AND PAID HOSTS

By Sharon O'Brien Iagulli



Jen Pepin and I are the Lake Host Coordinators charged with running the Granite Lake "Lake Host Program" for the New Hampshire Lakes. The mission is to prevent invasive species of plant and animal life from infesting our waters. Volunteers and paid (weekend) employees inspect incoming and outgoing watercraft at all public boat ramps across the state. These workers are information officers, educating the public about the "Clean, Drain, and Dry" rule - now NH state law.

Last year Lake Hosts across our state identified and deterred nine invasive species from entering non-infested lakes. While nothing (to our knowledge) has entered OUR lake, we must continue to be vigilant. We all wish for a lake which will be swimmable and boat-able for our families and generations to come.

There is also a need for paid weekend "educators." The more people who are interested, the less hours one would have to work. If you are interested in earning \$15 an hour for very important but easy work, and perhaps just wish to work 2 to 4 hours every other weekend, contact me soiagulli@hotmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONT. FROM PAGE 1

While NH DOT was very quick to bring in fill to shore up eroded sections of GLR, they are unwilling to replace the undersized culverts to avoid a recurrence. The DOT agrees that the culverts are improperly sized, yet says that this is a ubiquitous problem across the state and won't prioritize our culverts. GLA leadership continues to fight for culvert upgrades, hoping that cost-sharing with DOT or funding from a grant may provide a path forward.

As difficult as the summer of 2023 was, the lessons learned will help us better manage our watershed in the future. As a community we must aim to do better with erosion mitigation when disturbing our landscapes for small garden projects on up to large areas of new development. Intense rains are unforgiving of lapses. This last year also taught us that maintenance is critical. The GLA ought to do periodic inspections of public drainage structures. Likewise, as individuals, we can do the same on our properties and septic systems. Finally, we must adapt our watershed management to accommodate changing weather patterns. In the short term, this means upgrading the culverts along GLR to avoid a repeat of last summer.

**CLEAN.
DRAIN.
DRY.**



Protect Our Lakes from
Aquatic Invasive Species



The 2023 lake water monitoring program included sample collections in July and August. The July sampling took place five days after the unprecedented flooding event on July 8th, caused by several consecutive days of torrential rainfall. The resulting damage included severe erosion within the watershed, including washouts along waterfronts and road banks, which produced massive siltation and contamination of the lake. The water transparency (clarity) reading in July was only 1.7 meters at the deep spot of the lake, by far the worst reading since sampling began in 1989. Transparency was close to zero in shallow areas along the shoreline, where wave action churned up silt deposits on the bottom. Water clarity improved to 5.9 meters by the August sampling, still below the historical low point. Typical transparency has averaged 8 meters since 1989, with readings frequently exceeding 10 meters. Water color was light brown, instead of the normal clear / light blue.

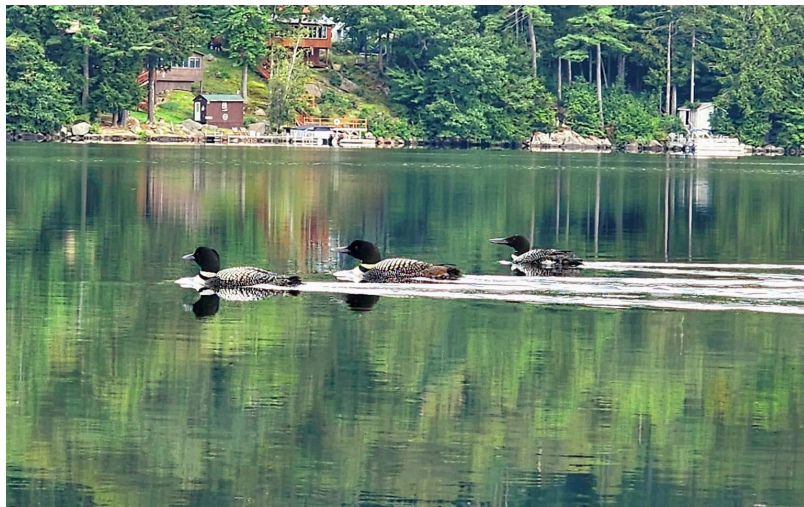


Photo credit Damian Largier

Phosphorus and chlorophyll readings were extremely elevated in July and the worst on record by a large factor. Levels improved somewhat in August, but the average for the two summer months far exceeded historical averages. We almost certainly would have experienced toxic cyanobacteria outbreaks if sunny and warm weather had occurred during the remaining weeks of summer. DES recommendations for protecting Granite Lake's water quality are the same as previous years – managing and limiting stormwater runoff within the watershed, especially along the roads, driveways, and waterfront properties around the lake. Extreme rain events like we had in 2023 are expected to occur more frequently with a warming climate, which increases the urgency of investing in preventive erosion-control measures.

The GLA Executive Committee has focused since the flooding on Granite Lake Road, where deficiencies with culverts and drainage control became painfully obvious during the flooding. Unlike the town-maintained roads in Nelson and Stoddard, where the GLA has partnered successfully to complete several very effective projects, Granite Lake Rd. is maintained by the State of NH. We learned from our state Senator Donovan Fenton, who chairs the committee responsible for Dept. of Transportation funding and priorities, that a long-term effort will be required to eventually secure the resources needed to address the problems on Granite Lake Rd. We have engaged with the Nelson Select Board and Nelson Conservation Commission, who are actively supporting our efforts to prioritize remediation projects along this road.

IN MEMORIAM RICK LOTHROP

Rick passed away on October 24, 2023 following a period of declining health with the love of his life, his wife Hope, at his side. Rick grew up in the Boston area, earning a mechanical engineering degree from Wentworth Institute of Technology. During the Vietnam War, Rick served in the US Air Force, receiving an honorable discharge at the rank of Sergeant. Rick moved with Hope to Nelson in 1976 where he worked as an Engineering Systems Manager for Markem until his retirement. Rick was a dedicated and active member of our community. He served at the Nelson Fire Department as Chief, and as a Selectman for the Town of Nelson. In addition, he was also a local Fire Warden and active member of the Nelson Congregational Church. Rick brought us joy and entertainment playing his tuba in the Nelson Town band since the band's inception. In recent years, Rick and Hope could be found enjoying walks around the lake, while in their younger years, they were seen challenging their sailing skills with the quirky winds of Granite Lake.

EAGLE UPDATE

BY BOB MADEN



4



Photo credit Jane Ojala Stone

The Granite Lake Bald Eagles first arrived on the island in 2018 and since that time Chris Martin, NH Audubon Raptor Biologist, has been keeping an eagle eye on them. Some of you may remember Chris; he was the GLA speaker in 2021 when we had the Annual Meeting on Sandy Beach. Chris was upstaged during his informative talk when a fledgling eagle took flight. What a sight!

I had an email conversation with Chris as the eagles returned to their nest this March to learn more about the history of our resident eagles. As my mind gets fuzzy with dates, I asked Chris when our eagles initially settled at Granite Lake. Our eagles first came to the lake in 2018 to make a nest, one of many locations that they probably investigated, and decided to settle in Munsonville. With their nest established they returned to have a family in March of 2019 raising their first two chicks. Eagles will typically have one or two chicks a year which is what we have seen. I wondered how many eagles have fledged from our lake, and Chris, who counts these things, said that between 2019 through last summer (2023), eight eagles have fledged. Of the 819 young Bald Eagles that have fledged from NH nests in the last 35 years nearly half have been produced in the last 5 years. Our Bald Eagles are part of this resurgence.

The eagles were seen sitting on the nest again this March and I asked Chris how long a Bald Eagle typically lives and reproduces. "It is about ten years for individual eagles, but the nest site may remain active much longer." So hopefully we might have new tenants in another five or six years.

The nest with the adult eagles and the fledglings has been a destination for the kayakers and boaters for the past six years. I asked Chris if the activity at the island with the cliff jumping, picnicking and sightseeing bothered the eagles, and his response was, "Not likely". And that "it was unlikely that they would abandon the nest at Granite Lake".

Since the arrival of the eagles we have not had a nesting pair of loons. The GLA newsletter in 2018 had a lengthy article on the subject of whether the two species could co-exist with a conclusion of, "We can only sit by and observe as both species are protected. It would be terrific if Granite Lake could have both species living in harmony. It just may happen." We have observed the eagles and loons for the past six years. Maybe it is time to consider an artificial nesting loon platform, outfitted with covers called "avian guards" to minimize predation of loon eggs by birds such as eagles, ravens, crows. Wouldn't it be nice to have both nesting and raising their young at Granite Lake?

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

By Damian Largier

Fourteen years ago, the Granite Lake Association conducted an extensive watershed management plan with the purpose of identifying and prioritizing the issues, and remediation required, to maintain the excellent quality of our lake. It is worth noting that although the size of Granite Lake is about 228 acres, the watershed (an area of land that drains its water into the lake) is over 10 times the size at 2432 acres and includes not only Nye Meadow but also large areas on either side of the 9 highway parallel to and heading north east from the lake.

The primary finding was that although the level of total phosphorus (at the time) was within the New Hampshire state recommendations, in order to retain the water quality to which we have become accustomed, our target should be below 5 micrograms/ liter. This will help avoid future toxic blooms that would impact on our ability to enjoy the lake to its fullest. To achieve this there were several site-specific measures that were recommended by the plan that have since been addressed over the last decade. These include catch basins and culverts along North Shore Road, a large culvert at the North Shore/ West Shore Rd. intersection, improved swales and culverts along West Shore Rd., and repairs and paving of the Nelson Fire Station and boat ramp. There were also some recommendations to us as residents and landowners that will help reduce

phosphorus load in the lake including:

- Maintain a natural vegetation barrier between your grass lawn and the lake;
- Avoid use of fertilizer and, in particular, any phosphorus containing fertilizers;
- No dumping of grass clippings on or near the lake;
- Remove all pet waste from shoreline areas;
- Avoid beach construction/ sand in the lake;
- Pathways should have step design to maximize water infiltration;
- And, minimize the disturbance of lake sediments by power boats.

The work by our Lake Host team was specifically called out and complimented. Finally, we were encouraged to continue our lake water quality monitoring which has been conducted so ably by Tom Newcombe every year. The good news is that the total phosphorus levels (measured at the top thermal layer of water at the 'deep spot' near the center of the lake) has remained stable between 4 and 6 microg/l over the last 10 years apart from 2023, when, just after the storm it reached an unprecedented high. The responsibility for maintaining the quality of our beautiful lake falls upon all of us. The full watershed management plan is available on our website granitelakenh.org under the 'information' tab.

IN MEMORIAM PETER JOHNSON

Peter Johnson was a dear friend to all and fell in love with Granite Lake. His enthusiasm for historic homes inspired his vision to help restore 305 North Shore Road. Pete genuinely loved his time at Granite Lake, took great joy in entertaining, and appreciated the Granite Lake community.



DEEP DRAWDOWN THIS LABOR DAY- PLAN AHEAD <<<

6

By Victor Pepin

The annual Granite Lake Village District (GLVD) meeting was held on May 4, 2024. Article 4 on the agenda was "To see if the Village District will vote to lower the level of Granite Lake approximately three feet below the normal winter draw down (approximately 2 feet) beginning on or about September 1, 2024." After discussion, it was voted 15 to 2 in favor of conducting the deeper drawdown. This was voted as a one-time deep drawdown.

Article 4 was requested by some lakefront property owners to allow waterfront cleanup and/or to enable shoreline work to be done while the lake is lowered. Information regarding shoreline protection and permits can be located at the NH Department of Environmental Services website. The Shoreland Water Quality Protect-

ion Act (RSA 483-B) and its associated rules, establish a protected shoreland close to public waters. Within this area, vegetation removal, excavation, fill, and development are regulated.

The GLVD dam commissioners control the level of the lake and plan to open the dam gate immediately following Labor Day weekend. The deep drawdown will be conducted in a controlled manner and the rapidity of the drop is subject to weather. It is expected to take several weeks to reach the desired level of approximately 5' below the normal lake level. The gate will then be closed at the discretion of the commissioners to allow the lake to return to the normal 2' winter drawdown.

+ CPR/AED TRAINING COURSE +

For at least a decade, the GLA has sponsored a CPR/AED (Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation/Automatic External Defibrillator) course for members of the Granite Lake Community. We are fortunate to have three AEDs located around the lake, one at the Chapel, one at Nicoletti's, and one at Englund's. Thus, for lake residents, an AED is located within a mile of your home. Similarly, many have taken the course which has been offered each summer (with the exception of the two COVID summers). Those who have been previously certified more than two years ago should sign up for the course again to be reminded of the protocols and also to be recertified.

This year's course will again be taught by a certified CPR/AED instructor of the Keene Family YMCA, and offered on Tuesday, July 30th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m at the Chapel-by-the-Lake. We expect that the board of the Granite Lake Association will again vote to pay the tuition for the attendees. Mannequins will be available for CPR practice, as well as AED units for (non-shocking) simulated practice. At the July 20th Annual GLA meeting, I will pass around a sign-up sheet, but if anyone wants to sign up in advance, please email me at bobenglund42@gmail.com.

Without question, effective CPR with the use of defibrillators can be life-saving in the event of a cardiac arrest.

WATER QUALITY REPORT CONT. FROM PAGE 3

At the recommendation of DES, we hope to further improve our chances by partnering with additional stakeholders such as our regional Planning Commission, as other lake associations have successfully done in the past.

Meanwhile, there are very effective erosion control actions that individual property owners around the lake can perform on our own. DES continues to recommend the **Lake Smart Program**, sponsored by NH Lakes Association, which contains numerous practical landscaping techniques for controlling stormwater on lakeshore properties.

CELEBRATE STODDARD 250 YEARS

7

STODDARD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH GRANITE LAKE By Alan Rumrill

Stoddard is celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2024, and for all those years residents of the town have lived near the shore of Granite Lake. The opinions and relationships that those residents have had concerning the lake have changed considerably over the centuries. The first European settlers in Stoddard were farmers. They came here to farm the land to support their families. Lakes such as Granite Lake were of little use for them; they could not grow crops or pasture cattle in the water. These were subsistence farms, and the farmers worked all day, six days a week to ensure they could survive through the year; they did not look to the lake for recreation and relaxation as we do today. They could, however, use the water to help sustain their crops and livestock if they lived adjacent to the lake and they supplemented their diets with fish from the lake, which was indeed known as Fish Pond at that time.



Wilson Farmhouse c. 1870, now the home of David and Cee-Cee Frechette

GRANITE LAKE BOAT PARADE SATURDAY JULY 20 5:00 PM



To recognize GLA's **75th** Anniversary and Stoddard's **250th**, join the happy hour boat parade! Open to all! (don't have a boat? Join a neighbor!) Line up begins west of boat landing for slow cruise (two loops) around the lake ending in the center. Prizes given for best decorated boats! (*decorating optional*)

Questions? Jen Pepin @ 603-283-8634

In the early to mid-19th century, the water in the lake began to be used for industry. The water powered woodenware, textile, and other mills at the south end of the lake. Those were all in Nelson, however, and had little impact on the residents of Stoddard at the north end of the lake, other than offering employment and some income through the sale of water rights to the millers to the south.

The attitude toward the lake began to change in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. People who had spare time in their lives when they were not working began to visit the lake to enjoy the water and the lakeshore for relaxation and revitalization. The few remaining farmers sold land to summer visitors who camped on the shore of the lake or built summer cottages there.

The development of the automobile soon made the lake, and many others like it, a tourist destination for those seeking relaxation. Numerous summer youth camps operated at the north end of the lake between 1906 and 1970, bringing many young campers to the lake. Today the lakeshore is thick with cottages and beaches. Both permanent and summer residents now cherish their time at the lake where the sunshine, cool water, surrounding forest, and pleasant neighbors provide countless enjoyable memories. Eight generations of Stoddard history have brought the town's residents to a place our predecessors could not have imagined 250 years ago – from viewing Fish Pond as a worthless wasteland to passionately protecting Granite Lake as a revered natural wonderland.



CHAPEL BY THE LAKE

The Chapel by the Lake hosts many community events including knitting club, pancake breakfasts, an Apple Festival and more. Community led services every Sunday at 10:30, communion every second Sunday. 529 Granite Lake Road Nelson, NH

OLIVIA RODHAM MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The ORML Library is located at 7 Nelson Common Road in Nelson. The new website highlights their wide range of activities including music and writing events, summer series, cookbook club, summer reading program, seed catalog, coffee hour and more. Don't forget the free or discounted museum passes!

OPEN HOURS

Monday & Thursdays 1pm –6pm

Wednesday 3-6pm

Tuesday & Saturdays 10am - 12pm

POTLUCK PICNIC WITH THE NELSON TOWN BAND

Join old neighbors and meet new friends at the annual potluck picnic held on the shore of Sandy Beach. ALL ARE WELCOME TO THIS AMAZING TRADITION!! Bring a dish to share. Call Donna Hamilton 847-3288 or Angel Nicoletti at 847-9547 with questions or to VOLUNTEER!

>>> SUN AUGUST 18 2:30

STODDARD IS 250 YEARS OLD!

The Town of Stoddard has planned a year of activities to commemorate its 250th Anniversary! Upcoming events (including one here on Granite Lake) are listed below. Read more at <https://celebratestoddard250.org>

June 22 - Upton Forest Hike

June 28 - Town Hall Storyteller and Musician

June 29 - Pitcher Mountain Day with Sunrise Hike

July 6 - Paddle Robb Reservoir with Harris Center

July 11 - 14 Stoddard Old Home Days

July 13 - House and Garden Tour

July 27 - Blueberry Festival

August 10 - Highland Lake Palooza

August 14 - Gazebo Concert

August 16 - Stoddard Historical Society annual meeting on Frechette's lawn. Active program for whole family with camp songs and games.

Sept 14 - Hidden Lake Concert and Little Big Forest hike

Sept 30 - Stoddard Church Auction

Oct 5 - Hike Center Pond to Perley Swett's cabin from Stoddard into Munsonville.

Nov 2 - Grand Finale Pig Roast at Lakefalls with music and dancing.

DAVIS PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Davis Public Library is located at 1391 Route 123 N in Stoddard. The Library Book Sale will be held July 29 from 9-2 during the Stoddard Blueberry Festival. This is Stoddard's 250th celebration as well! Read more at celebratestoddard250.org. Our librarian Inga Dellea or any of the staff will be able to help you at 603 446-6251.

OPEN HOURS

Monday & Friday 3pm -7pm

Tues & Weds 1-5pm

Thursday 10am - 5pm

Saturday 10am - 2pm

Is there anything YOU would like to contribute or see in the next Granite Lake Association newsletter?

If so, please contact Jen Pepin, editor at JLPEP3@gmail.com or 603-283-8634. Thank you!

THE 75TH ANNUAL GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION MEETING

9

➤➤➤ SATURDAY JULY 20TH, 10AM AT THE 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.

MEETING AGENDA

Salutation and Call to Order

Derek Walton, *President*

Pledge of Allegiance

Derek Walton

Secretary's Report

Sally Ripley, *Secretary*

Remembrances

Derek Walton

Speaker: "Milfoil/Invasive Species Battle Planning"

Amy Spagula

GLA Annual Reports:

Treasurer's Reports

Tom Newcombe, *Treasurer*

Membership Report

Joann Bartolotta

Lake Host Report

Sharon Iagulli / Jen Pepin

Water Quality Report

Tom Newcombe

AED / CPR Training 2022

Bob Englund

Elections

President

Damian Lagier

Vice President

Naomi Risch

Membership at Large

Mitch Greenwald

Treasurer

Tom Newcombe

Secretary

Sally Ripley

Lake Host Report Program

Sharon Iagulli & Jen Pepin

Membership

JoAnn Bartolotta

Nominating Committee

Nick Nicoletti & Donna Hamilton

New Business:

Derek Walton

Approval of AED/CPR training costs

Date for 2025 annual meeting July 19, 2025 (third Saturday)

Donations to Chapel by the Lake for meeting space

Other Business not on the Agenda

Motion to Adjourn

GUEST SPEAKER AMY SMAGULA



Amy Smagula is a freshwater biologist with the NHDES where she coordinates the state's Aquatic Invasive Plant Program and conducts special studies of the state's lakes and ponds. She has 26 years of experience in lake and watershed monitoring and aquatic plant management. Amy has a BS in Natural Resources Management and a MS in Water Resources Management from UNH. She has served multiple terms on the boards of the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society, North American Lake Management Society, Northeast Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel, and the New England Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society.

She is past chair and long-time member of the NH Invasive Species Committee. Amy also serves as Editor of LakeLine, the magazine of the North American Lake Management Society. In her spare time, you can find Amy hiking the mountains of New Hampshire, and spending time on the water with her son and husband.

GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION
JOANN BARTOLOTTA, MEMBERSHIP
150 NORTH SHORE ROAD
MUNSONVILLE, NH
03457

THE GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION IS A MEMBER SUPPORTED NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION.
YOUR MEMBERSHIP CONTRIBUTION IS NOW A (501C3) TAX DEDUCTIBLE CHARITABLE DONATION.
PAYPAL OPTION COMING TO OUR WEBSITE SOON -OR- MAIL YOUR CHECK (\$50 FAMILY, \$35
SINGLE, \$\$ TO WATER QUALITY PROJECTS) ALONG WITH INFO BELOW TO:



GRANITE LAKE ASSOCIATION
THOMAS NEWCOMBE - TREASURER
701 GRANITE LAKE RD
MUNSONVILLE NH, 03457

NAME_____

SUMMER ADDRESS_____

WINTER ADDRESS_____

EMAIL _____ I CHOOSE TO RECEIVE DIGITAL COPY ONLY _____

WINTER TELEPHONE: _____ LAKE PHONE # OR CELL_____

WILL YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP?

LAKE HOST, PICNIC, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, NEWSLETTER, WEB SITE

NEW

HELP US KEEP OUR MAILING LIST UP TO DATE!
FOR 2025, PAID MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A PAPER COPY OF THE GRANITE LAKE NEWSLETTER
IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE A MEMBER BUT WOULD LIKE TO CONTINUE TO RECEIVE A DIGITAL COPY
OF THE NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL A REQUEST TO GRANITELAKENH1949@GMAIL.COM