



Pleasant Lake
Preservation Association

Pleasant Ponderings

Deerfield / Northwood

PO Box 53

Deerfield, NH 03037

February 2015

www.pleasantlakenh.org

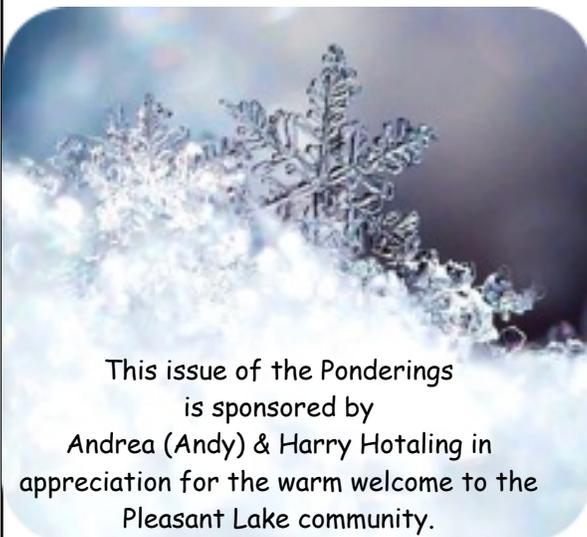
Thoughts From The President



As I am writing this note the snow is coming down on the lake and besides a few die-hard citizens out ice-fishing, things appear pretty quiet. But under that new coating of snow, as you will read elsewhere in this edition of the Ponderings, there is a flurry of activity around the lake.

Watershed Ordinance: Revisions to the Town of Deerfield's Pleasant Lake Watershed Ordinance will be voted on at the Deerfield Town meeting in March. Your vote is an important next step in this process to protect our Lake.

Watershed Restoration Plan: The State of NH Department of Environmental Services has approved the funding (\$50,000) for the Pleasant Lake Watershed Restoration Plan Project. The Request for Quotation (RFQ) has been released. Responses are due February 13th and there will be a meeting to review the proposals on February 17th at the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission in Manchester. (continued on page 3)



This issue of the Ponderings is sponsored by Andrea (Andy) & Harry Hotaling in appreciation for the warm welcome to the Pleasant Lake community.

New Pleasant Lake Watershed Protection Ordinance

The Deerfield Planning Board's Jan. 14th agenda called for a discussion of a new Pleasant Lake Watershed Protection Ordinance. Several members of the board and one lake resident attended.

A few examples of the changes include:

- A 'funnel development' clause (section 330.14) has been added. This will prevent property owners from subdividing their land and granting access to the lake for each of the new lots. If this type of development were allowed it would create a second "public" access point to the lake, in addition to the existing one on Gulf Road.
- Modifications in Section 330.6 require a Stormwater Management & Erosion Control Plan if post development impervious surface is more than 20%.
- The requirement to obtain a permit to cut any tree within 100 feet of any tributary stream discharging into Pleasant Lake has been deleted.
- Many sections have been reworded to simply better define the requirements.

It is important to note that the new ordinance is NOT retroactive. Residents in the watershed will not be required to make modifications to their existing homes or camps. If you have already been given a building permit, nothing further is required on your part.

The changes and the ballot language are available on the Deerfield Town Website. Go to Boards & Committees and select Planning Board. townofdeerfieldnh.com/pages/DeerfieldNH_BComm/Planning/Index

This new ordinance will be voted on as part of the Town & School Election process on **MARCH 10, 2015** at the Deerfield Town Hall.

If the new ordinance fails to pass, the Pleasant Lake Watershed Protection Ordinance in its current form will remain in effect.

We encourage all to get out and vote on March 10th!

WHAT'S NEXT with the New Pleasant Lake Watershed Protection Ordinance

While the new ordinance is, in our opinion, a significant improvement, there is still much to do. Many sections of the ordinance are still subject to interpretation, these need to be modified so there is a clear definition of the requirements.

Work is now underway by the So. New Hampshire Planning Commission and the NH Department of Environmental Services to develop a Pleasant Lake Watershed Restoration Plan. This plan is a science and engineering based study that will identify what needs to be done to halt the continuing degradation of Pleasant Lake. We expect the Restoration Plan to pinpoint some specific problems that need to be addressed.

Even with clearly defined requirements, and critical issues identified based on science, the proper administration of the ordinance needs to be evaluated and improved. Comments we have heard indicate that some property owners are able to make drastic changes on their property that are detrimental to the entire watershed and the health of the lake without any town approval, while others must complete an arduous approval process just to make a minor, low-impact, alteration to their property only to get rejected in the end. Regardless, the administration of the ordinance and the variance process is clearly part of the protection process and needs to be considered as we continue to try to not only protect but restore this precious resource.

The bottom line is that there is much work to be done. The committee that has been working on the ordinance and the protection process will begin to meet again in April. If you are interested in participating in this work, please contact Onni Irish at onni.irish@gmail.com omni.irish@gmail.com.

* What are impervious surfaces? They are areas covered by material that impedes the infiltration of water into the soil. Examples of impervious surfaces are buildings, pavement,

PLACE TO RENT?

If you are a member of the PLPA and have a place to rent Summer 2015, contact Linda Brennan at lbrennan1213@gmail.com to have the vacancies listed in our Spring Ponderings.

~ Lake Passings ~

David Nixon – Wendy Branch's Father

WANTED

The PLPA is looking for Pleasant Ponderings Sponsorships for 2015 issues.

It is a great way to honor a memory of someone, a celebration of fun on the lake, or just help the association defer the cost of an issue. If interested, please send \$100 to the PLPA (PO Box 53, Deerfield 03037) and notate the details of the

ICE OUT, WILL IT BE AN EARLY SPRING ?

by Liz Garlo, Director Loon Cove District

Any bets on when "ice-out" will be this year? Last year it was April 23 on Lake Winnepesaukee. The earliest ice-out in the last 200 years on Lake Winnepesaukee was March 23, 2012, followed by March 24, 2010. The latest ice-outs occurred in early May (7-10) in the years 1887, 1893 and 1888, respectively.

According to a 2006 article from UNH's Institute for the Study of Earth, Ocean and Space, many indicators associated with the end-of-winter are a week earlier in the northeastern United States. Researchers have analyzed data from a variety of sources for trends and found:

- * lake ice-out is 9-16 days earlier (1807-2000)
- * high-volume spring river flow is 7-14 days earlier (1936-2000)
- * days with snow on the ground are 16 fewer (1970-2001)
- * air temperature has increased 4.4 degrees Fahrenheit (1970-2000)
- * spring bloom is 8 days earlier (1965-2005)

All the indicators show that on average in the Northeast, spring comes about a week earlier. Although the sun still crosses the equator on March 20th, marking the spring equinox, "natural spring" begins on March 13. According to the report, the clearest signal of climate change is the earlier shift between late winter and early spring conditions.

Although an earlier spring might at first sound like a good thing, it is not necessarily so for natural ecosystems. The "mismatch" between day length (which has not changed) and the effects of warming temperature (a week earlier) can cause a dramatic disruption in seasonal rhythms. For example the larval stages of insects are often controlled by temperature, so they hatch earlier, since it is warmer. But the migration of birds is often controlled by day length. This "mismatch" has resulted in a decline in reproductive success for birds, and a plague of insects. Even the "early bird" might not get the "worm" (insect) which it is accustomed to, and there is not enough food to feed the young hatchlings. The same may be true in the lake ecosystem, resulting in a decline of food for fish. Some researchers are wondering if we will see a reduction in cold-water fish and an increase in warm-water fish in NH lakes due to the warming trend. Some economic indicators of earlier spring conditions are beginning to be noticed in some years, including disruption in maple sugaring and ski tourism. Climate change is just one stress on Pleasant Lake, and should be kept in mind when planning things ranging from additional development to mowing and fertilizing any lawn in the watershed. If everyone asked themselves the question of how their actions will effect the environment now and for future generations, it would be easier to maintain a cleaner, healthier world.

Restoration Project Kicks Off

The Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission issued a press release on Jan 20 informing consultants that they were seeking proposals to do the work called for in the Pleasant Lake Watershed Restoration Plan.

Visit our web site (pleasantlakenh.org) for a copy of the Press Release and a link to the Request for Quotes.

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Lake Host Program: The New Hampshire Lakes Association (NH LAKES) was awarded the 2014 Outstanding Volunteer Champion Award at the Spirit of NH Awards ceremony in Concord in November for its Lake Host Program which the PLPA Lake Host program is a significant part. In February the NH Lake Host Volunteers will be honored in Washington DC for the Volunteer/Aquatic Award during National Invasive Species Awareness Week. All Lake Host Volunteers are invited to participate in receiving the award at the USDA Building in DC.

This activity and the other programs operated under the PLPA all require the time and talent of our members. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the members and non-members who have volunteered to support the preservation and protection of Pleasant Lake.

If you would like to get more involved in activities supporting the goals of the PLPA please reach out to me or any member of the board or contact us via our web site at <http://pleasantlakenh.org/>. We have opportunities for your time and talent in the following areas: Lake Host Program, Weed Watcher, VLAP Testing, Children's Programs, Board Member & District Director (West), Web Site Support, and Special Projects.

Thank you for your interest and Happy New Year!

John Duffy - johnduffy912@gmail.com

EAGLE SURVEY by Linda Brennan

NH Audubon has posted the results of their NH 2015 Eagle Survey. This year they located 90 Bald Eagles (48 adults, 41 immatures, 1 unknown age) in NH on Count Day, January 10th. This number exceeded the previous state record-high of 67 seen on Count Day in 2014.

I'm not sure our nesting pair of bald eagles were counted, but we're very aware of their presence. While taking a walk on the ice one of the eagles made two attempts to check out our small white dog as a potential food source. It swooped low over the dog, circled, and then landed on the ice blocking her path. The eagle and the dog were staring at each other while we flailed our arms, yelled like crazy people, and ran to save our puppy. The eagle finally took flight and floated quietly down the lake, still hungry. Beautiful but scary sight.

2015 Fins 'n Fun Kid's Fishing Event Returning again this year!!

**May 25 - August 24
Age Divisions**

Tyke Division 2-5 years old
Junior Division 6-11 years old
Senior Division 12-15 years old

Categories

Sunfish, Small Mouth Bass & Large Mouth Bass
Check website for details, rules & forms.
www.pleasantlakenh.org

PLPA Officers, Directors & Special Groups

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Veasey District (#17-30)

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West District (#31-47)

VACANT - call John Duffy to volunteer for this position.

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Loon Cove District (#61-80)

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Broad Cove District (#105-125)

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Ledges District (#126-145)

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North District (#146- 189, #1)

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COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Fins 'n Fun Kids Fishing Event

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Pleasant Ponderings

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Boat Parade

May Erwin & Teresa Piazza
mayerwin@comcast.net

Canoe Club

David Sachs -(617)331-0493
david@dhsachs.com
(prefers email to phone)



Charlie Moore,
the Mad Fisherman,
spent an October day
on Pleasant Lake
fishing and filming.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS !
FOR THE 2015 ANNUAL MEETING
June 27th @ 9 AM**

**WATCH FOR BOAT PARADE DETAILS IN THE SPRING
ISSUE OF THE PONDERINGS OR EMAIL
MAYERWIN@COMCAST.NET**

**CONTACT HOLLY MARTIN TO ORDER YOUR
PLEASANT LAKE SWEATSHIRTS!**



Poltak Plumb Family



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Pleasant Lake is the home of at least
one mink that winters at a home near
Veasey Park.