



P.O. Box 143 Piermont, NH 03779 • [www.lakearmington.org](http://www.lakearmington.org)

## FALL NEWSLETTER

November 19, 2020

### Dear Members and Friends,

I hope this finds you well and managing in these challenging times. We are in Piermont as I write where there have been snow flurries throughout the day. The fall seems to have been brief this year, but very pretty. Now the peaceful winter season begins.

I know we all missed our usual get togethers, and I hope you all enjoyed time at the lake this beautiful summer. It turned out that our quiet lake was relatively busy! We loved watching our loon family and did you notice how busy the beavers were? With the recent rains, the water levels are returning to normal.



A beaver swims along Sirecho Shores

The Board communicated by Zoom and emails to conduct our usual business, passing a budget, supporting our programs and electing new board members. We remain so sorry to lose our dear friend Ann Soloway in early July. Carlos Manrique decided not  
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to accept another term, and we thank him for all the hard work, enthusiasm, and fun he brought to his many years of service.

Our new board members are: Carolyn Dorfman, who directs Camp Walt Whitman with her husband, Jed, and is a longtime supporter of the lake association. Many of you have met Carolyn, who is sure to be a big help to us.

James Jensen, from Sirecho Shores, is also joining the board. James has been an enthusiastic weed watcher for several years and he and his wife Deborah are enjoying spending more time at the lake the past few years.

You will find the full list of board members at the end of this newsletter, and on the website. Thanks to all the board members and project leaders who do so much for the lake association.

### **LAKE HOST PROGRAM:** Lynn DeMerchant reports:

The Lake Host program had another successful year protecting our beautiful Lake Armington. We conducted a record number of 530 inspections, almost half of which were recorded during the month of July. Gratefully no invasive species were found during inspections. Many of the boats reported their last water body to be one that is known for harboring one or more invasive species. Please remember to always, “Clean, Drain and Dry” your boat!

We thank Lynn DeMerchant who, with assistance from Laurie Gramlich, very capably manages this program and secures our grants through NH Lakes.

## **WATER QUALITY REPORTS:**

1. From Mike Poole, whom we thank for managing our Water Quality Testing every year:

“As many of us are aware, this was a quite different spring and summer around the lake. Water testing was also different, but we did manage to get it done per DES guidelines (NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). The DES Lab in Concord was closed to the public, but we were able to meet them twice in Plymouth.

The first change that affected us was that DES in Concord was not doing any testing themselves, and lakes could only test twice, instead of the usual 3 times, partially because of the lack of interns, and also their need to focus on Covid testing. We hired a private lab in West Lebanon for our E-Coli tests, which all came back good.

We did our water testing in July and August, and the numbers all seem to be normal. The transparency was slightly higher (good) but still lower than years past. The yearly report will come next spring with the combined numbers and notes from DES.

NHDES released a new report at the end of August called, NH Lake Trend Report, which will come out every 5 years. There is a link to the report here, and on our website.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/media/pr/2020/20200831-lake-trend.htm>

This is an extensive report on trends in the health of our lakes. Lake Armington falls into the Dartmouth Lake Sunapee region (DLS). To help you navigate the report, Lake Armington is considered a mesotrophic lake (in between highly productive lakes with lots of plant life, and nutrient poor lakes). There is an interesting section looking at changes in transparency in our region, and the White Mt. region.

I would like to thank Tim Donelon and Grita for helping me with the water testing.”



Loon with two chicks early in 2020 season

2. PFAS Study

In late October, Linda Kline and Ken Settel noticed state research boats gathering fish samples from both our lake and Lake Tarleton. After investigating, Linda learned that DES is conducting a study to generate state standards for PFAS surface water quality.

Our lakes are being used to establish a reference point, because we are considered an exceptionally clean lake (but we knew that already!). The samples were of perch, small mouth bass, and pumpkinseed.

PFAS are a group of 4 chemicals used since the 1940's and widespread in the environment. NH is one of a few states looking at revising the standards, as there are human health concerns, as well as impacts on aquatic life.

We will post the link to the DES study here and on the website. A full report from the state might be available late spring 2021.

<https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/wqs/documents/r-wd-19-30.pdf>

## **US FOREST SERVICE LAKE TARLETON PROJECT: UPDATE**

Bob Dennison tells us that the next milestone for this project will be the public notice in May 2021, with a decision in January 2022. The earliest implementation date is April 2022. We can expect information to be published as part of the public notice and there should be an opportunity for public input once they publish the draft plan. We will keep watching their website and reach out to our contact, Scott Hall as it gets closer to May. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=56394>

## HATS HATS HATS

Caps for Sale, by Esphyr Slobodkina was a favorite story of mine many (many!) years ago.

Now, we have a new batch of Lake Armington hats for sale, just in time for your holiday shopping.



New Lake Armington hat

These are very nicely made hats, and we have kept the price at \$20. Contact Lynn DeMerchant for more information or to place an order at [waterwoman02@yahoo.com](mailto:waterwoman02@yahoo.com) or 603-764-9461

## DIRECTORY FOR 2021

We did not print an LAA Directory this year and will likely do a complete update for 2021. Please send your changed contact information to Alice Wellington at [alice@nutmeadow.com](mailto:alice@nutmeadow.com).

This includes your lake and home addresses, email addresses and phone numbers. Did you finally give up your landline? Do you want to add other family members? Thank you, Alice, for keeping track of all of us!

## NEW POLICE CHIEF

As of the end of October, Brandon Alling is the new police chief in Piermont. He previously worked as the police chief in Haverhill. It was reassuring to hear that he has already patrolled the Lake Armington area.

## LAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021

Lynn Dennison, President  
Shirley Nicol, Vice President  
Polly Tafrate, Past President  
Kate Merritt, Treasurer  
Sam Rounds, Recording Secretary  
Arline Cochrane, Corresponding Secretary  
Lynn DeMerchant  
Carolyn Dorfman  
James Jensen  
Bill Musty  
Ken Settel  
Alice Wellington



Lakes Armington and Tarleton from Piermont Mountain 2020

## CONTRIBUTIONS

No newsletter would be complete without a request for your contributions of dues and donations to keep our programs going. 90% of our budget supports the crucial Lake Host program.

Your participation is key to our success! Please send a check to "Lake Armington Association" at PO Box 143 Piermont, NH 03779 or contribute online at [www.lakearmington.org/DuesDonate.htm](http://www.lakearmington.org/DuesDonate.htm)

I wish you all a safe holiday season, and a happy and healthy 2021. Watch for the Ice-Out contest in late winter.

Lynn Dennison,  
LAA President