



Summer 2026



Photo courtesy of Kristen Sheehan

2026 SLA Leadership Update

Despite a cold winter with what seemed like a lot of snow, southeastern New Hampshire is still in a “severe drought” condition with many local lakes having low water conditions. Jim Mize has done a great job managing our dam and Sunset Lake is right around where it should be for this time of year. Let’s keep our fingers crossed for a reasonable amount of rain this summer so that water levels stay high and we can all enjoy the lake to its fullest extent. We have a full year of events planned again this year including morning paddles, evening fire pit/paddles, our annual meeting in July, and both Lake in Lights and MusicFest & BBQ events in August. We hope that you will join us on and around the lake for these various events!

We continue to look after the health of the lake this year with our regular water quality testing, invasive species monitoring and mitigation, and we are keeping our fingers crossed that we won’t see a return of cyanobacteria blooms this year. Phosphorus levels are still at concerning levels and we hope that more of you will help us reduce runoff into the lake by participating in the Lake Smart program that will be enhanced by NH Lakes this year.

Another initiative that SLA leadership is undertaking this year is research into applying for 501(c)(3) status for the SLA. This status will not only make memberships/contributions federally tax deductible, but will provide added benefits to reduce our operating costs, give access to more tools to manage the organization, and give access to non-profit grants.

Thanks again to our lifetime and annual members who enable us to continue looking after the lake that we all love!
- SLA Board of Directors, Delegates, and Alternates

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2026 Calendar of Events



Sat, Jan 17, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Feb 21, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Mar 8, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Jan 18, 11:00 am	Hampstead Civic Meet & Greet, Hampstead Middle School
Sat, Apr 11, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Apr 18, 9:00 am	Road cleanup
Sat, Apr 25, 7:00 pm	Light Up the Night
Sat, May 16, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sun, May 24, 8:00 pm	Memorial Day Weekend Light Up the Night & evening paddle
Sat, June 6, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, June 13, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, June 20, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, June 27, 8:00 pm (backup: June 26)	Independence Day Festival Light Up the Night & evening paddle
Sat, July 4, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, July 11, 9:00 am	SLA Annual Meeting & BBQ
Sat, July 18, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, July 25, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Aug 1, 8:30 pm (backup: July 31)	Sunset Lake in Lights House/Yard Decorating & evening paddle
Sat, Aug 8, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, Aug 15, 2:00 pm	Sunset Lake Music Fest & BBQ
Sat, Aug 22, 9:00 am	Morning paddle
Sat, Aug 29, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sun, Sept 6, 7:00 pm (backup: Sept 5)	Labor Day Weekend Light Up the Night & evening paddle
Sat, Sept 19, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Sept 26, 6:00 pm (backup: Sept 25)	Light Up the Night
Sat, Oct 3, 9:00 am	Road cleanup
Sat, Oct 17, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Oct 31, 5:00 pm (backup: Oct 24)	Halloween Light Up the Night
Sat, Nov 21, 9:00 am	Morning hike
Sat, Dec 19, 9:00 am	Morning hike

Learn more about all of these events at www.slahampstead.org or www.facebook.com/slahampstead/events

SLA Adopted Road Cleanup

Our volunteers continue to do a great job cleaning our adopted roads: Kent Farm, Wash Pond, and Ells Roads. Once again our spring cleanup was coordinated with Hampstead Hearts and Sunset Park Campground for Earth Day weekend. Our next cleanup event is **Saturday, October 3 at 9:00 am** so please watch your email or our [Facebook page](#) for signup information if you are interested in helping to keep our town free of litter!



2026 SLA Annual Meeting & Picnic

This year’s annual meeting and BBQ is on **Saturday, July 11th at 9:00 am** at Meetinghouse Park, 20 Emerson Avenue. Get the latest news and updates from the SLA, see presentations from external guests, vote for the incoming Board of Directors, and ask questions or voice concerns. We welcome all members, potential members, and guests.



Guest speaker:



Mike DiGioia, *Seacoast Regional Field Biologist, Loon Preservation Committee*

A Connecticut native, Mike's main interests lie in paleontology and ornithology. His professional career has seen him restoring salt marsh habitat, monitoring shorebirds, grassland, and marsh birds, and banding songbirds and owls. This is his third season working with LPC to protect New Hampshire's fragile population of Common Loons.

Mike will give a overview of Common Loon biology and behavior, as well as share exciting news about the first recorded nest on Sunset Lake!

The meeting will be outdoors with the Congregational Church Hadley Hall as a backup for bad weather. We will have portable tents for shade from the sun. Please bring your own lawn chair. Sandwiches, beverages, condiments, plates, and utensils will be provided for lunch. **We appreciate if individuals can bring a salad, side, or dessert to share.** Please, no glass containers of any kind are allowed at Meetinghouse Park.



The SLA is a volunteer/community organization and we want and need all of your participation to be successful in our mission; we hope that you will all come and participate in our annual meeting!

2026 Paddle and Fire Pit Events

Join us twice a month on Saturday mornings and once a month on select evenings during the warm months of the year for a 1 ½ hour paddle around the lake. It is a great way to get some exercise and you can often catch a great sunset on the evening paddles.

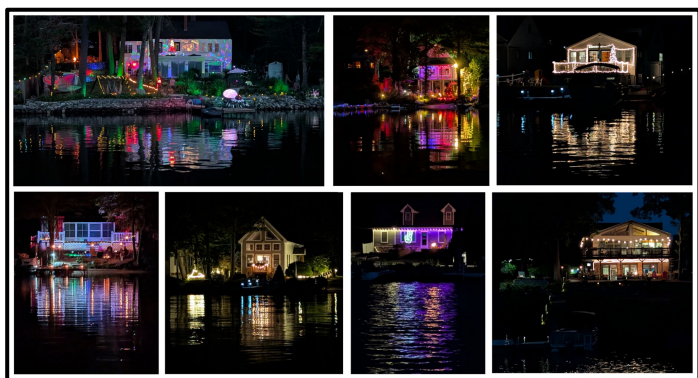


The evening paddles coincide with our “light up the night” events, so light up your fire pits for our paddlers to view along the way!

Check out the calendar on page 2 for exact dates and times and watch your email or our Facebook page for more details!



5th Annual “Sunset Lake in Lights” event!



Our 5th annual “Sunset Lake in Lights” decorating event is planned for August 1st and we hope that we will set a new record in the number of participants.

Decorate your house, yard, and/or boat in lights so that it can be seen at night and enjoyed by paddlers, boaters, and everyone around the lake. You can decorate for any theme whether it be patriotic/4th of July, Halloween, Christmas, tiki torches, or whatever theme you choose. This year, we will give bonus points for those who decorate to celebrate America’s 250th Anniversary!

This event is really spectacular to view from the water so we hope that more people will join our paddlers at 8:30 p.m. or take your motorboats out to view the outstanding creativity of the community. If you decide not to go out or decorate, get your fire pit going and say hello to the paddlers as they pass by.

A huge thanks to our local business sponsors listed below who have donated the prizes for the best decorations!

Sunset Lake MusicFest & BBQ

Our 1st Sunset Lake MusicFest & BBQ was a huge success last year, so we are planning to do it again this year on the afternoon and evening of **Saturday, August 15**. We will have live bands on the shore of the east bay of Sunset Lake. Boats can anchor in the east bay to enjoy the music and we will have free burgers and hot dogs available to be delivered to your boat from the shore.

We will have the same 3 bands as last year, all which include Sunset Lake residents:

Sharon & Nick Pangaro’s Acoustic Americana Music
Sons of the Solstice Acoustic Classic Rock & Bluegrass
Black & Bluez Electric Classic Rock

Stay tuned for more details to come!



Thank you to our Sponsors!

We want to thank the local businesses who have sponsored our 2026 summer events.

Please be sure to give your support to these great local businesses!

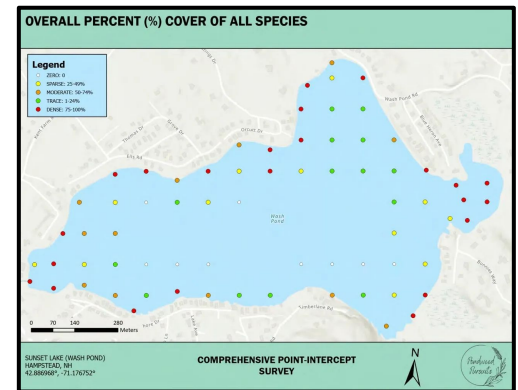


If you know of a business that would like to sponsor one or both events, please contact info@slahampstead.org.

2025 Aquatic Plant Survey

Thanks to our members who join at the Lake Leader and Weed Watcher levels, the Sunset Lake Association contracts a professional aquatic plant survey of the lake to look for invasive species and catalog the native species.

In July of 2025, this survey was performed by Amanda Polchlopek of Pondweed Pursuits, LLC. Amanda is the same individual who performed our last survey in 2021 when she worked for SOLitude Lake Management. In 2025, Amanda performed a point-intercept survey, which is a more rigorous method than used in the past. This method used 71 regularly spaced GPS collection points throughout the area where aquatic plants can grow and will allow us to more precisely track native species presence and growth over the years. This approach will help our weed watcher volunteers better identify native aquatic plants vs. irregular plant growth.



The survey identified 24 different species of native aquatic plants and confirmed that Sunset Lake is still free of invasive aquatic plants. You can [read this blog post](#) for more details about the survey or review the [full survey report](#) for complete details. Thanks again to our Lake Leader and Weed Watcher members that fund these surveys, our volunteer weed watchers who watch for invasive species, and to everyone on the lake for being diligent in not allowing invasive species to enter our lake!

Sunset Lake Merchandise

Show off your pride of Sunset Lake with some great clothing or other items or get an item as a gift for that special person who really loves Sunset Lake! We have 2 stores that both specialize in different types of products.



Zazzle This store has many Sunset Lake related items including calendars, puzzles, postcards, stationary, drinkware, clothing, and much more. Zazzle almost always has a discount from 10%-50% on various items in the store. Visit <https://www.zazzle.com/store/slahampstead>

Teespring This store has a large selection of clothing styles and colors with the Sunset Lake logo including women's and children's clothing. It also has many more items with the Sunset Lake logo such as hats, beach towels, drinkware, and more. **New this year are embroidered logo items.** Visit <https://slahampstead.creator-spring.com/>



A small amount of proceeds from each sale in both stores supports the Sunset Lake Association's mission.

SLA Leadership Corner

Nick Pangaro, Board of Directors, District 2



Hi all. I've been asked to write something about myself. Hmmmm, how do I keep it short?

I grew up in New Jersey, where my bedroom was about 15 miles due west of the Empire State Building. So how does a kid from the Garden State wind up in the sleepy little hamlet of Hampstead, NH? What a long, strange trip it's been.

After graduating high school with high honors, naturally I went on college (Seton Hall University) with majors in Chemistry and Communications. I thought I would be the next great communicator of great advances in science to the rest of the world. Unfortunately, my working-class parents' money ran out before I was able to achieve that dream, and I had to drop out after about 2 years.

I found a job as a commercial photographer and met the girl of my dreams, who foolishly married me way back in 1973. Yep - do the math, we've been married for 53 years this summer. Poor Sharon never realized what she was getting into all those years ago.

Somehow, we scraped together enough money to send me back to school (William Paterson University of NJ), where I majored in Biology, with Minors in Chemistry and Statistics (aka, Sadistics). Yes, it's true - there ARE "lies, damn lies, and statistics". I also had a gig with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) where I worked in an analytical laboratory attached to a hazardous waste investigation/cleanup group (remember "Love Canal"?).

After graduating (summa cum laude, I might mention), Sharon and I decided to leave the Garden State and move to New England, first to Nashua, then to Hampstead. I found a job as an analytical chemist with a company in Massachusetts that focused on Air Pollution studies. Eventually that morphed into a project management position for waste treatment technology evaluations, especially incineration. Sounds impressive, eh?

I gave up the science end of things (my mistake) to focus on my project management skills (way more money), and started a consulting company, where we hired ourselves out to manage projects and would teach PM methodology. I retired from that about 9 years ago.

Did I mention I'm also a musician? Sharon and I have been in numerous bands, playing an assortment of acoustic instruments, from guitar to fiddle to mandolin to banjo (anybody want to hear a banjo joke?). I can also carry a tune, so I get to sing a couple of songs, where Sharon does fabulous harmonies that makes me sound a lot better than I am. I've also run a couple of music venues, but those are long stories too.

So, keep it short, Nick. Yeah, right. Let me wrap up saying we've been in our house here for about 40+ years, and you can find me on the beach on nice summer days, or floating around in my kayak soaking up some sun, or playing music in jam sessions, or open mics, or (sometimes) actual gigs. I also spend way too much time at the gym, which has resulted in a lot of great friendships and a body that should be healthier than it is. Ah, retirement.

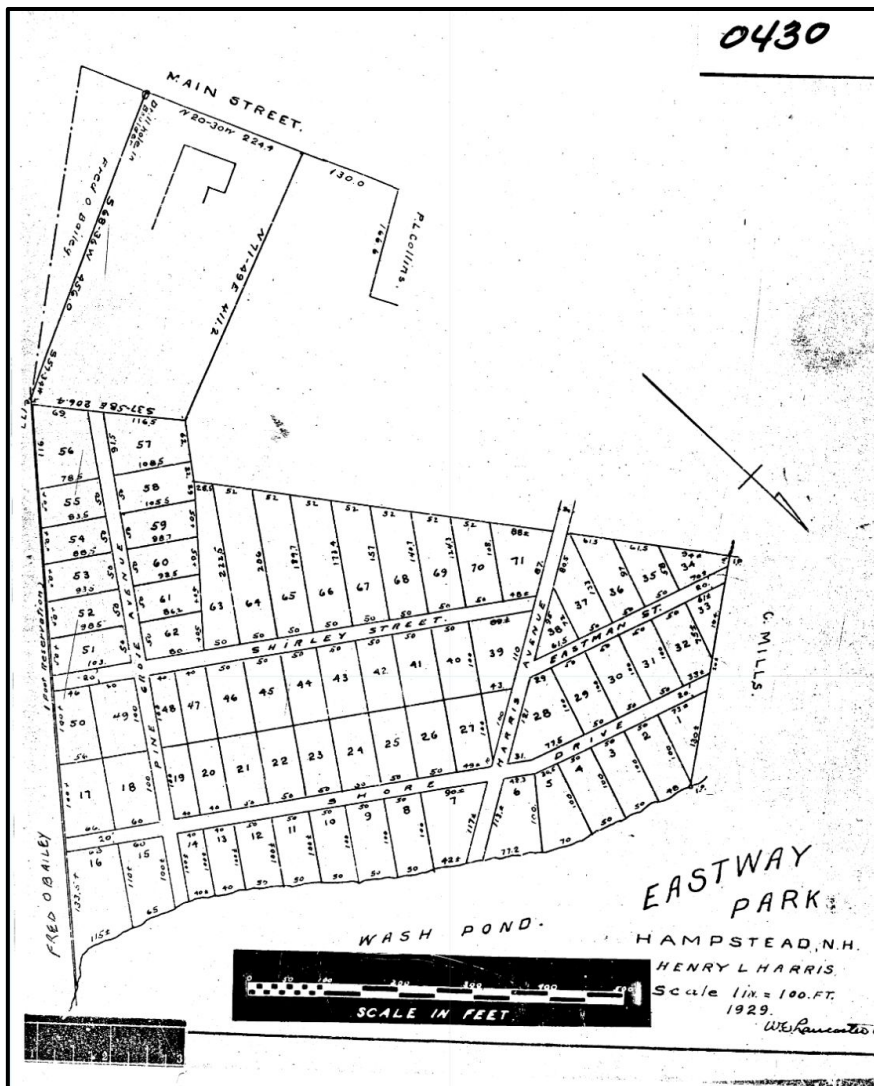
Editors Note: Come and see Nick & Sharon play at the 2nd annual SLA MusicFest & BBQ on August 15 (see page 4)

Sunset Lake History - District 11

Jim Wilkinson, SLA Board Chairman, District 4

District 11 consists of the homes on Harris Avenue off of Main Street, Shirley Street, Matthews Drive, and Shore Drive up to house #32. This was the second major neighborhood developed on the lake after the Ells neighborhood and was originally developed under the name Eastway Park.

This area was originally part of a 160 acre parcel of farmland that stretched from Sunset Lake across Main Street to Island Pond. The farmhouse for the property is today's 111 Main Street which was built ~1737 by Caleb Heath. The 22 acres between Main Street and Sunset Lake was eventually separated from that on the West of Main Street and the land for 117, 121, 125, 129, 135, & 137 Main Street and 9 & 11 Harris Avenue all subdivided off over the years.



Henry L. Harris, a prominent Haverhill shoe manufacturer, and his wife Linnie bought 111 Main Street and the 19 acres of remaining land in 1929. Harris sold 111 Main Street in the same year and put together a plan called Eastway Park to subdivide the remaining land into 71 camp lots of ~50'x100'. The lots were sold by Harris until he passed away in 1935, then by his wife Linnie, and then by Levi & Myrtus Duston who purchased the remaining lots from Linnie.

I am sure that the current residents of the neighborhood are thankful that instead of 71 individual houses, multiple lots were sold or consolidated over the years to result in only 30 houses, so it is not as densely populated as it might have been.

It is believed that Harris also operated a store called Hampstead Cash Grocery out of a barn on the 135 Main Street property and this barn eventually was moved to become part of 11 Harris Avenue.

For a more complete history of this area with photos visit <https://slahampstead.org/district-11%3A-eastway-park>

Thank you to our 2026 Members!

Thank you to all of our members. Your dedication allows us to accomplish our mission. (L) - designates lifetime members

Lake Leaders

Gail Boneberg & Hector Gonzalez	Barbara & Richard Larkin (L)	Christine Sullivan
Paul & Lynn D'Adamo	John & Deborah Magee	Mike & Pam Trenholm (L)
Frank & Jaye Dimando (L)	Kendra Neville (L)	The Ungerer Family (L)
Wassim Elyaman & Betsy Bradshaw (L)	Arthur & Wendy Osborn (L)	Julie & Ed Vasseur (L)
Michael & Maureen Dewey (L)	Tom & Elizabeth Robinson (L)	Jim & Pat Wilkinson (L)
Bruce & Christine Hamilton (L)	Joe & Pam Santa Fe (L)	2 anonymous

Weed Watchers

Kate Brick & Charles Backman	Nolan Dimando (L)	Tom & Sue Wall
Jim & Jane Baratt	Jim & Nancy Lovering	1 anonymous (L)
Bruce and Michelle Cohn (L)	Barry McEachern	3 anonymous

Loon Lovers

Beth & Robert DellaGrotte (L)	Curt & Susie Muller	Dan & Nichole Stowers
Pam Hartung	Nick & Sharon Pangaro	Robin Wright & Mark Holloway
The Manzik Family	John & Susan Pierce	1 anonymous
	Rob & Joanne Reeves	

SLA Supporters

The Bartolotta Family (L)	Janet & Greg Germanton (L)	Dale & Gale Putnam (L)
Kerry Boles & Laura Walker (L)	David & Helen Guilmette	The Raposa Family (L)
Samantha & Vinny Borbone (L)	The Halchak Family	Tricia Roberts (L)
John Boucher (L)	Jason & Kristine Houle (L)	Joseph Sabatino
Jason & Shelly Breen	Rich & Carole Humes	Ian & Katia Samuelson (L)
The Buggy Family (L)	Jennifer & Kalote Joss & Edward Burke (L)	Douglas Sears (L)
Thomas Burdulis (L)	Bob & Regina Kuhl (L)	Gabrielle Smith (L)
Ruth Ann Burkinshaw	Andy Jensen (L)	Vanda Solarz
Patricia & Paul Cambray (L)	The Marrs Family (L)	Scott & Beth Spicer (L)
Camp Tel Noar (L)	Stephen & Cynthia Marshall	Howie Steadman (L)
Keith & Louise Capulli (L)	Jessica McDougall (L)	The Stygles & Kachagian Family (L)
Paul & Lorraine Comeau (L)	Rick and Lisa McQuesten (L)	Sunset Park Campground - The Dunn Family (L)
Pearce Connal (L)	Jim & Michelle Mize (L)	Dave & Debbie Webber (L)
Diane Croteau (L)	Bob & Marilyn Moran	Joseph Winston (L)
Cheryl Crumb	Nancy Nastasi (L)	Tom Zack & Donna Warne (L)
Paul & Elizabeth Deastlov	Don & Candi Page (L)	18 anonymous (L)
The Gallant Family (L)	Rosanne & David Palazola (L)	3 anonymous
	Susan Polleys	

Sunset Lake Association Membership

Your membership is what allows us to continue to carry out our mission. Please consider renewing or joining with a \$25 annual membership or \$250 lifetime membership. You can optionally upgrade your annual or new/existing lifetime membership for the current calendar year with an additional \$10, \$25, or \$75 donation which supports various initiatives of our mission.

With your help, we can continue to preserve Sunset Lake for current and future generations. You can join online, print and mail the membership form below to us, or bring it to the annual meeting.

THANK YOU!

Online Membership

Make your annual or lifetime payment in minutes, safely and securely via credit card.

For more information, please visit www.slahampstead.org/membership



Printed Membership Form

	Annual (pick one)	or	Lifetime	+	2023 Add-on Contribution (optionally pick one)
SLA Supporter	☐ \$25		☐ \$250		☐ \$10
Loon Lover	☐ \$35				☐ \$25
Weed Watcher	☐ \$50				☐ \$75
Lake Leader	☐ \$100				

Member Name(s): _____

☐ Please list my name(s) and membership level in member recognition listings

☐ Please send a thank you card for my membership

eMail Address: _____

Phone (optional): _____

Mailing Address: Street or PO Box _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Lake Property Address: _____

Make checks payable to "Sunset Lake Association" and either bring to the annual meeting or mail to:
Sunset Lake Association, P.O. Box 135, Hampstead, NH 03841