

Sunset Lake Association

PO Box 135 Hampstead NH 03841
www.slahampstead.org
info@slahampstead.org

Save the Date:
July 18, 2015
Annual Sunset
Lake Assoc.
Meeting



From your Sunset Lake Board of Directors,
On behalf of the Sunset Lake Association, we would like to bring you up to speed on some of the important work the board has been working on. We meet each month to develop methods and procedures to monitor the quality of our lake and streams and improve how the association operates. We hope you all get to enjoy the lake as much as possible this summer. If you have any suggestions, or notice any issues, please contact one of the board members, your area delegate or email us at info@slahampstead.org.

As mentioned in an eblast sent out in the beginning of March, the Sunset Lake Association Board of Directors is implementing our membership renewal dues to align with the calendar year. This gives us an opportunity to know what our budget will be able to handle for the upcoming season. A reminder to renew your membership or to become a member will be sent out in January. Help us protect the lake you enjoy by becoming a member.

As noted on our website, www.slahampstead.org, and in various messages, our annual membership remained at \$25 but we are also offering a Life Time Membership of \$200. We've had a good response to the Life Time Membership. Another feature was added on the site to simplify your membership renewal by using PayPal for your payment method. We have no objection to receiving checks if this is your preferred method. If it is then please mail your dues check to Sunset Lake Association, PO Box 135, Hampstead NH 03841.

We know the topic of becoming a non-profit association has been on our plate for some time and you're probably tired of hearing it but, we did finally submit the documentation to the IRS at the end of 2014. The news through the grapevine is they have a tremendous backlog and it is uncertain just when we will get the approval for 501(C3).

It did not look like a boat parade was going to take place this year but at the 11th hour we had a volunteer offer to help organize one on July 11. If you are interested in participating in the parade please contact our District 11 Delegate, Carol Deastlov at 330-468-8773. Thank you Carol for taking the time to organize this event. We are also planning a gathering of non-motorized watercrafts such as kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, etc. This does not require a lot of planning, decorating, and there's no cost associated. Let's see how many we can pull together the first year. As more information becomes available we will let everyone know, so please stay tuned and remember to check our website calendar and also keep an eye on Facebook for upcoming events.

This is our first year as a Board of Directors and we are pleased with how well the group is working together and the progress we have made. But, as usual we are looking for nominees to serve on the board or you can volunteer to be a delegate/alternate in your district. So please consider becoming involved with the association and helping with our future plans.

Thank you all for your continued support and remember "THIS IS YOUR LAKE AND PROPERTY VALUE".

HELP WANTED By
Jim Mize



The primary goal of the Sunset Lake Association is to preserve and maintain the health and beauty of our lake. Many lakes suffer from unwelcome invasive plants and organisms. As of now, invasive Variable Milfoil has been yet to be detected here. While we have a very capable weed watch coordinator on our lake, there is only so much that can be seen above the water. I am looking to put together a group of scuba divers and or snorkelers to get together and act as an early detection warning team of this devastating plant. The sooner it is identified the easier it will be to control. If you would like to get involved, contact me at (603) 234-5932.



Welcome to the Sunset Lake Association . . .

Our goal is to preserve the health and scenic beauty of Sunset Lake and its surroundings.

Dam Report By Jim Mize

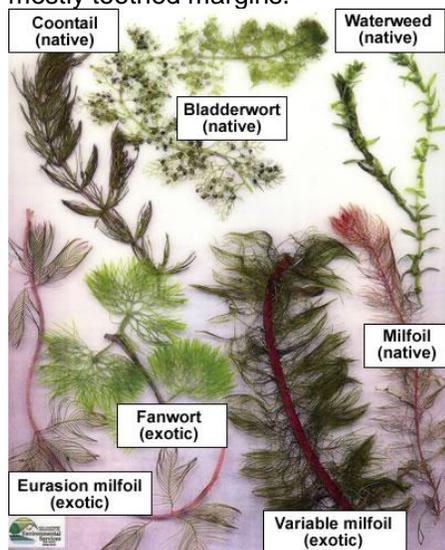
Already it's the end of May and residents around Sunset Lake just finished celebrating Memorial Day. It is awesome to see so many (and so many new) boats and water craft out and enjoying our lake. We are fortunate to have summer high water levels while many of our neighboring lakes are still low and hoping for rain to finish filling their water bodies. We started conservatively filling the lake on April 11 after ice out and the snow finished melting. It turned out in our favor and we look forward to an amazing boating season and summer.

Weed Watch: Native or Exotic Invasive? By Michelle Mize

Many native plants to Sunset Lake have a non-native look-a-like which can cause difficulty in identification. A few tips on identification include leaf or leaflet shapes and arrangements. Below are some of the "most wanted" invasive and the look-a-like species common to Sunset Lake.

Native Coontail can be mistaken for Exotic Eurasian or Variable Milfoil or Fanwort. The differences include how the leaves or leaflets attach to the stem. Native coontail leaves are directly attached to the main stem and has no petiole or leaflet stem. Exotic milfoils have prominent petioles or leaf stems attached to the main stem. Often the exotic milfoils may have red square like stems like the native however the native is much more wispy and threadlike than the exotics. If you roll the stem between two fingers and is square it is probably an exotic.

Native Elodea Waterweed can be confused with Exotic Hydrilla and Brazilian Elodea, both exotic. Except the native Elodea Waterweed has three broad leaves attached to the stem, and no teeth on the margin of the leaves and the exotics have pointed leaves, multiple (usually upward of three) attached to the stem and have slightly toothed to mostly toothed margins.



For more information and identification pictures with descriptions please click the links below. If you suspect an invasive exotic or would like to be a NHDES Weed Watcher and receive a Weed Watcher kits please call 603-817-1366.

http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/exoticspecies/aquatic_plant.htm

<http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/wd-05-30.pdf>

http://des.nh.gov/organization/commissioner/pip/publications/wd/documents/frightful_foureen.pdf

Lake Trivia:

All correct answers will be put into a drawing system. One lucky winner will have their choice of a tee shirt or sweatshirt from our inventory. Winner will be chosen at the annual meeting. You must be present to win.

Question: What am I?

Identify this creature and email your answer to info@slahampstead.org



They started hatching about a week ago. Right now and through July there will be different species of them, (size and color). At dusk, if you study the water's surface you can actually see them in their larval state wriggling. They use the tension of the water to wriggle out of their larval case and fly away. This is known as a hatch. As it gets dark, certain areas of the lake will be buzzing with millions of them. When this happens you will also notice the eager fish rising to the surface and filling themselves on them as they try to fly off. Also take note of birds diving towards the surface of the water. Males (drakes) and females will mate in the air. Immediately after mating the male dies and the female will deposit her eggs back into the water then soon die. In the morning you will see the dead ones floating in the water. They live in the water for several years before hatching and living only about one day.



Asian Clams By Jim Mize

During the fall of 2014 a suspicious clam was discovered on our shoreline. NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) was contacted and they suggested they be sent in for evaluation. NH DES confirmed they were Asian Clams.

Asian Clams have been identified in 44 States. They are believed to be brought here from South Eastern Asia on or about 1930. Asian Clams spread from one water body to the next very easily. Their larvae are undetectable to the naked eye and can survive in a single drop of water.

NH Fish and Game is the agency dealing with these as they are an animal. We were advised that "there really is no means of effective/efficient control for Asian Clam and at this time the State is not taking steps to manage them, rather focusing on education and outreach to try to prevent further spread".

The State of NH is planning on coming in July to do sampling and see how widespread they are.

Please refer to the Data Fact Sheet. It will answer many questions and help you in identifying them. If you think you have seen them or have any questions, please contact a board member or your area delegate.

Asian Clams arrived here from another water body containing them. Perhaps it was a boat with larvae in the bilge or engine, a bait bucket or water in a canoe or kayak. It is impossible to say by who or when these got here, only that they are a recent discovery.

The important take away from this is being diligent about cleaning your boats and gear thoroughly. A wet boat, gear or other items being placed into another water could continue the spread.

Camp Tel Noar Celebrates 70 years on Sunset Lake By Efraim Yudewitz

This summer will be the 70th season that Camp Tel Noar has opened our doors to campers and staff from all over the country to enjoy the beautiful scenery and community of Sunset Lake. Throughout our history we have enjoyed partnering and working with many local vendors and businesses, employing neighborhood kids for summer jobs, and sharing our facilities for town celebrations and events. It has been an honor to share the lake with such warm and caring neighbors.

Next week we will welcome back former campers, staff and parents to their home away from home for our 70th celebration. They will reminisce about learning to swim in the lake, playing volleyball with their friends and star gazing at night. Many of them will make sure to stop by the "G-Store"- Don's Market to say hi to Wayne just as they did when they were kids. For our camp community, Hampstead is and will always be home- the numbers 03841 carry special meaning! It has been an incredible 70 years and we are excited to do our part to help keep Sunset Lake beautiful.

Watch for details of the Boat Parade July 11th!

SLA Annual Meeting

Save the Date: Saturday July 18, 2015

Location: Hampstead Old Meeting House
20 Emerson Avenue, Hampstead

Time: 9:00 a.m. Gathering
9:30 a.m. Meeting begins

We will have Tom O'Brien, President of NH Lakes Association as a guest speaker.

Water and Stream Testing By Jim Mize

There are 15 identified small streams that feed into Sunset Lake. Water samples are taken each spring and analyzed at the University of New Hampshire for phosphorus levels. The results of the tests are compared to historical data. An unusually high reading may lead to a source of nutrient loading that will lead to excessive and undesirable weed growth. This year, rather than making it the job of one person, representatives from each district volunteered their time and collected the samples in early May. We appreciate the time donated from these individuals and their commitment to the lake.

Volunteers also monitor the water quality of our lake on a monthly basis using the association's meter. The tests include oxygen level, water clarity, temperature and conductivity. A water sample is also taken near the surface to the thermo cline and sent to UNH for analysis for chlorophyll. The test results help us identify the amount of algae present in the water. These tests will be recorded and filed in a manner accessible to whoever is interested in this information.

Volunteers are always welcome to help and assist in these tasks. If it sounds like something you may be interested in, please contact your area delegate or a board member for more information.