



Perkins Pond Protective Association

# The Perkins Ponder

Spring 2003

**2003 Spring Meeting**  
**Sat. June 7**  
**10 a.m.**

**At Lorelei Diehl's**  
**80 Burma Road**  
**603-763-5096**  
**Come by boat or car.**



## Minutes from Fall 2002 PPPA Meeting

Don and Doris Gearan hosted the Perkins Pond Protective Association meeting on August 24, 2002. Photos by Robin Saunders of the Water Carnival were on display. This newsletter reports on the discussions and decisions that took place at that meeting and also includes additional news and articles.

The meeting's main topic was the application for a Lake and Watershed Diagnostic Study in cooperation with NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES). Sunapee has several times defeated proposals for installing town sewer around Perkins Pond. Those concerned with water quality recommended this study as a broader approach that will identify the nature and sources of any pollution that may be impacting the pond.

Tom Gallagher moved for the Association to pursue the request for the study. Claude Leavitt seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Additionally, a motion by Petra Schaefer, seconded by John Rooney, was approved instructing the Association to send a letter to Counselor Ray Burton and others requesting support for the study. See the related articles for more information on the study and the Association's role in obtaining it.

Robin Saunders represents Perkins Pond on the Sunapee Area Milfoil Attack Team (SAMAT). She proposed hanging a banner at the boat landing with a message about cleaning boats to avoid bringing in exotic weeds. Robert Evans requested the banner not block sailboat masts. The meeting approved spending \$240.00 for the banner on a motion by Petra Schaefer, seconded by John Rooney. See related articles for more Weed-Watch news.

Bob Carruthers noted that both the sign about clockwise boating and the trash can have disappeared from the boat landing area. He also queried who has been mowing the area.

Jackie Bradley and Sean Platt commented on the importance of keeping charcoal ash, fireworks and flares out of the pond water. These can pollute with phosphorus, sulfur and potassium nitrate. Phosphorus causes weeds to grow faster.

Attendees also discussed the potential for creating an easy way for members to exchange email. (This has not yet been implemented.)

Chris Domian presented the treasurer's report for Suzanne McMahon. Fifty-six families have paid 2002 dues.

**2003 Water Carnival**  
**Sat. July 26**  
Rain date Sun. July 27  
More information in the next newsletter.



**Perkins Pond Memorabilia**  
Contact Scott Sanders  
603-763-9255  
mem@perkinspond.org

## Lake & Watershed Study Moves Forward

Last November the NH Dept. of Environmental Services (DES) agreed to a in-depth study of Perkins Pond water quality. DES will work cooperatively with the town, PPPA, lake residents and interested parties in identifying concerns and water management goals for Perkins Pond.

The NH Clean Lakes Program within DES is sponsoring the study. Citizens are expected to supply volunteer labor to carry out the study. The goal is to collect and analyze data, and then to formulate and recommend watershed management practices for the protection and restoration of the pond and surrounding area.

According to Jody Connor of DES, all lakes that received the diagnostic study have improved as a result. Kezar Lake in North Sutton and Beaver Lake in Derry are two that gained better water quality through the study.

While the study is expected to last a little over a year, the entire process may take several years. Depending on the results of the diagnostic study, a revised study or evaluation of possible solutions may be called for. If problems are pinpointed, additional funds may be available to address them.

A Citizen's Advisory Committee will collaborate with DES to oversee the study. The town of Sunapee has appointed the following committee members:

- Gary Szalucka, president of PPPA
- Bill Roach, representing Sunapee Selectmen
- Aaron Simpson, Sunapee Water & Sewer Commission
- Van Webb, Sunapee Conservation Commission

Meetings and discussion are beginning, and more information will be available at the June 7 PPPA meeting.

**Perkins Pond Water Quality Report**  
**NH Dept of Environmental Services**  
[www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/vlap/](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/vlap/)  
 Select "Annual VLAP Lake Reports"  
 Then under "Observations and Recommendations"  
 click on "list of lakes and ponds"  
 then "Perkins Pond"

*2003 PPPA Dues  
 \$20 per family  
 Send to Treasurer Suzanne or  
 bring to June 7 meeting.*

## PPPA Instrumental in Obtaining Lake Study

PPPA members played a strong role in obtaining approval for the study of Perkins Pond water quality. During the summer of 2002, a group of members who were concerned about water quality and the failure of the sewer project began meeting. One of their goals was to communicate more effectively with Sunapee officials including the Water and Sewer Commission.

The Perkins Pond group met with town officials and other citizens to better understand each others concerns. Jody Connors of DES attended one of these meetings. When Jody proposed the diagnostic study of water quality, all groups agreed it would be beneficial. The study would provide a basis of data about what problems the pond may have and what the causes might be.

At its fall meeting, the PPPA voted to support application for the study. Tamar Sanders provided a sample letter of support. Volunteers Petra Schaefer, Lorelei Diehl, Ruth Pratt, Chris Domian and Robin Saunders knocked on doors around the pond to get signatures on a petition and encouraged residents to write their own letters of support.

By early fall, 17 letters and a petition signed by 140 Perkins Pond residents showed evidence of grass-roots support for the study. The tireless work of PPPA president Gary Szalucka kept the process moving with effective communication until approval was granted.



Perkins Pond ice got to be 24 inches thick this cold winter! Perkins Pond ice-out was April 22, beating Lake Sunapee by five days. A water-skier was spotted on the pond April 24.





# 2002 Water Carnival Winter Wonder- land

*Photos by  
Robin Saunders,  
edited by Anne*



## Dump Hours

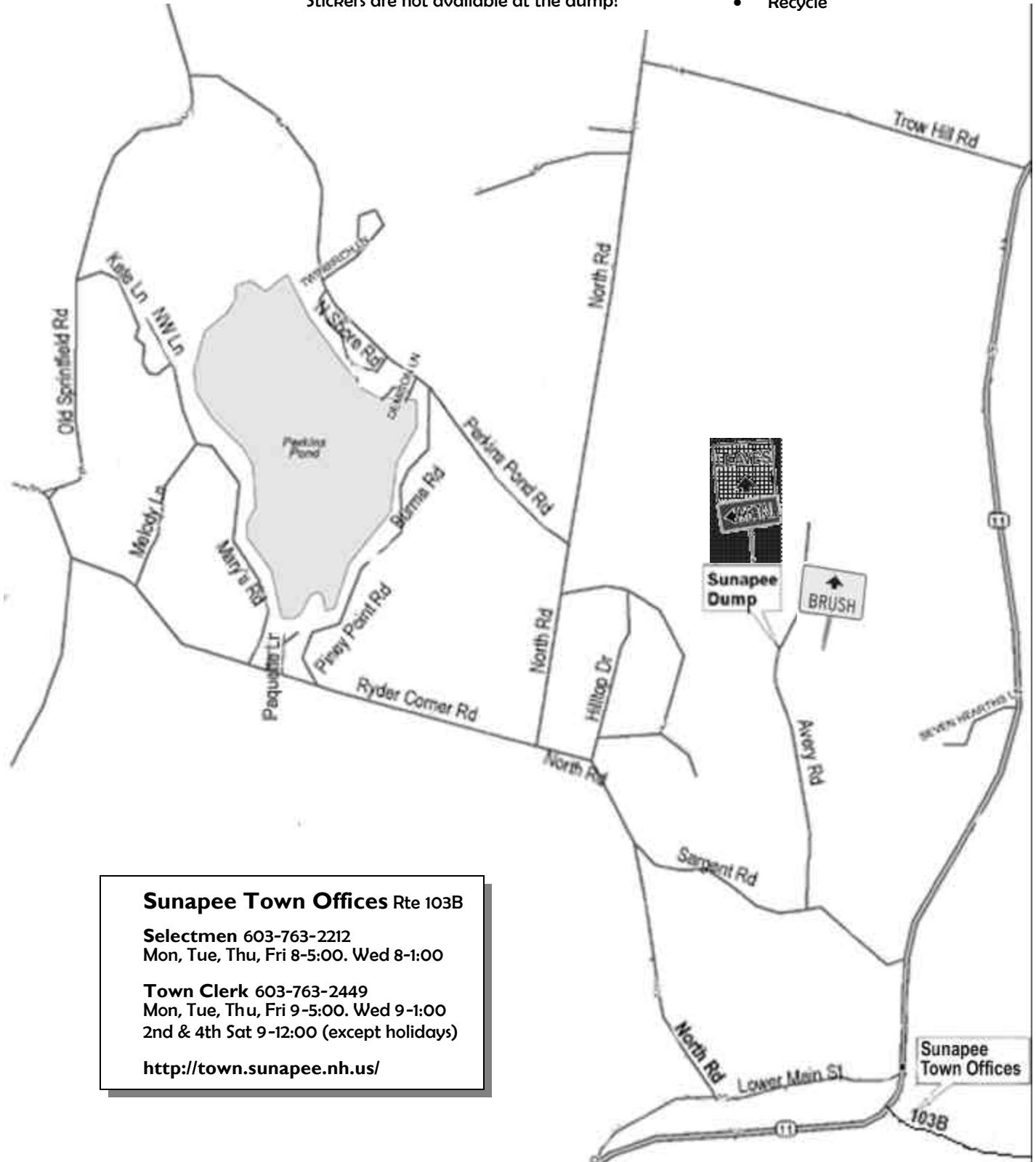
Mon, Thu, Fri, Sat: 8-4:15.  
Sun 8-11:45.

## Dump Stickers

It's easy and free to get your dump sticker from Sunapee Selectmen Office (763-2212). Call to ask them to mail it or go in person. They need your license plate number. Stickers are not available at the dump!

## Dump Items

- Spring cleanup
- Leaves and brush
- Charcoal and ashes
- Trash
- Recycle



### Sunapee Town Offices Rte 103B

**Selectmen** 603-763-2212  
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 8-5:00. Wed 8-1:00

**Town Clerk** 603-763-2449  
Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9-5:00. Wed 9-1:00  
2nd & 4th Sat 9-12:00 (except holidays)

<http://town.sunapee.nh.us/>

## Weed Watchers Find No Exotics



Tamar Sanders reported on weed-watching at the PPPA meeting. Weed-watching volunteers monitor the lake to identify unusual weeds and growth. During 2002, the group saw a lot of weed growth, but no exotic weeds. Exotic weeds, such as milfoil, are non-native to NH lakes, have no natural checks, and grow quickly out of control.

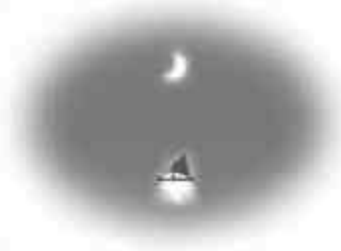
Tamar asked for additional volunteers for the Weed Watchers. Jackie Bradley and Marian Leavitt volunteered to join Tamar, Chris Domian, Chris and Holly Leonard, Robin Saunders and Gary Szalucka in this project. Tamar mentioned that she wants to get buoys to mark suspicious weeds and may use string and weight on a cut-up buoyant "noodle."

## The New Circle Weeds



The circles of weed that appeared last summer are known as "pondweed" with a species name of "Potamogeton". Tamar reported that she had someone from DES come out to look at this weed in the pond and they identified it as a native type.

There are many varieties of pondweed. At last summer's Love Your Lakes Day in Sunapee Harbor, DES displayed a book showing a great many water plants. Anne VanTine took a sample of our weed, which clearly matched the picture of native "pondweed." Both the book and the DES person reiterated that it is a natural weed to have in this area, not a foreign invader. This weed also grows in Lake Sunapee's Herrick Cove. Nevertheless, it is worrying since we have not seen it before.



## In Praise of Darkness

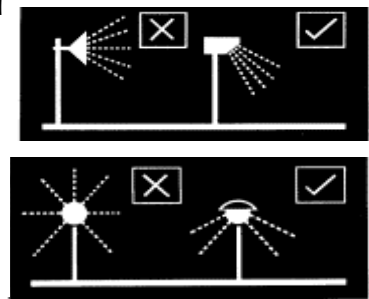
*An editorial by the newsletter editor  
Pictures from [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org)*

One of the pleasures of being at Perkins Pond is seeing the natural dark of night. The landscape lit by the moon has a calm depth and soft shadows. The sky looks huge and millions of stars show up against the dark. Sitting on the dock or taking a slow night cruise on the water, I see the Milky Way and the dippers and sometimes a falling star. More serious star-gazers can print a sky chart customized for a specific night in Sunapee at [www.skyandtelescope.com](http://www.skyandtelescope.com).

If I look into a floodlight shining across the water, my night vision disappears so I can't see the stars or my path in the moonlight. When lights shine outward, they can create glare so we see into the light rather than what the light is meant to illuminate. When lights shine upward they create sky glow that washes out our view of the night sky. In many urban areas, glare and sky glow permanently obscure the stars.

Outdoor electric lights enable us all to enjoy night-time activities. The Dark-Sky Association suggests balancing the use of outdoor lighting with the desire to preserve the beauty of the night. Their web site [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org) suggests ways to reduce the impact of lighting. In some cases it's as simple as aiming a lamp toward the ground or shielding the top from lighting the sky. Here's some of their ideas.

- The people and activities that are using light can have it focused on them without lighting larger neighboring areas or across the pond.
- Full cut-off lighting fixtures can help to minimize glare. Full cut-off means that no light is emitted above the horizontal.
- Some existing lighting fixtures may be fitted with shields to reduce glare.
- Rather than dusk to dawn lights, a more effective approach for security lighting may be motion detectors.



## PPPA Officers

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*Ice fishing on Perkins Pond, Winter 2002-3*

**Perkins Pond Protective Association  
77 Piney Point Road  
Sunapee, NH 03782**