



Perkins Pond Protective Association

The Perkins Ponder

June 2001

PPPA Meeting Sat. June 16 at 10:00 A.M. Mercer home at 31 Piney Point Road

The first Association meeting this year will be at Charlie and Ellen Mercer's home on Saturday June 16, 2001. Their phone is 603-763-5773. Note that you drive in on Piney Point Road, but if coming by boat, they are the first place on the *west* side of the peninsula.

Anyone who needs a ride to the meeting can call Claude and Marion Leavitt at 763-2129. The only requirement is a proper dock for the pontoon boat. Chris Domian has also offered rides. He can be reached at 763-4427.

Dues are \$20.00 per year, payable at the beginning of the summer. You can pay dues at the Association meeting, or send them directly to the treasurer: Suzanne Graves, 19 Pelham Isle Rd., Sudbury, MA 01776.

Election of officers will be on the agenda. If you are interested in learning what this entails or in helping the Association in any other way, please contact Gary (763-2618) or Chris (763-4427).

Second Annual Ski Day

At the June 16th meeting we will begin planning the second annual ski day. Tentatively the date is July 21. This is earlier in the season than last year. This will allow some remaining summer to socialize with new friends met during Ski Day.

If you missed the first Ski Day, speak with any of the 100 people who attended to hear what a good time was had by all. Please bring your ideas for improving Ski Day to the meeting.

Once again, Ski Day is the time for naming a new *Princess*

of the Pond. Melissa Sicco, the reigning princess, will turn over her crown in a floating ceremony during the day's festivities. Make your candidate suggestions to Gary.

In your Ski Day plans, don't forget to:

- Plan what food to bring,
- Save your appetite,
- Practice your water sport,
- Think of games for the kids,
- Decorate your boat for the parade.

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PPPA Officers

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Memorabilia

Gerry Brailsford is taking over responsibility for Perkins Pond memorabilia from Mary Jane Mumford. Thank you Mary Jane for all the work you've done on this over the years!

Gerry is open to new designs and may be able to turn around individual or small orders on request rather than stockpiling. Call him with questions or requests at 763-7360. Welcome Gerry.

Sewer Project

The sewer project failed again for the fourth time at the Sunapee polls on March 13. The town was asked to pay \$518,553 for the project, with \$655,987 billed to Perkins Pond property owners, \$782,300 coming from state and federal money, and \$27,801 funded through town sewer user fees. We were well below the required two-thirds majority, with 404 in favor and 463 against. This was the largest defeat to date. Please bring any thoughts or ideas about what to do next to the June 16 meeting.

- Last August the project was also rejected 291 to 284 at a special referendum.
- A year ago March it had 588 votes for and 297 against, just short of a 2/3 win.
- Back in 1999 it failed with 478 for and 365 against.

The project has been granted \$766,000 through the Rural Development Authority. Bill Roach and Bill Scharff recently investigated the possibility of obtaining an additional federal grant of \$1,000,000, but Senator Judd Greg's office indicated that there were no additional funds. Unless voted in by the town of Sunapee, the only other funding source is us.

Water Quality

Here are the results of the water monitoring program for the summer of 2000.

Chlorophyll-A count continues to rise. It now measures 10.34 mg per cubic meter of water. This measurement indicates the abundance of algae in the water. This was evidenced by the odor that many of us experienced last summer on the water. As a comparison, the NH state mean is 7.5 mg per cubic meter.

Too much phosphorus in a lake can lead to increases in plant growth. Last year's results had a fairly stable trend in the upper water but a slightly worsening trend in the lower water level. Humans introduce phosphorus into lakes by fertilizing lawns, using detergents containing phosphates, and most importantly, failed septic systems. Both upper and lower water levels are above the state median.

Water transparency or clarity continues to decline. Last summer it was 1.9 meters or 6.25 feet. This is down from almost 3 meters when the water monitoring program began in 1987. The NH mean is 3.75 meters or almost 10 feet.



Wild Winter Hangs On

Ice out on Perkins Pond this year was April 29. Last year, someone was seen water skiing on April 15. By Gary's calculation, this winter's snowstorms added up to 14 ½ feet. Anne Vantine came up to Sunapee and went snowshoeing this April 15, and a week later observed people swimming at her local lake 100 miles south in Massachusetts.

Ice out on Lake Sunapee was officially May 3. Records of Lake Sunapee's ice-out date have been kept since 1869. The latest ever recorded was May 14, in 1887. The last time ice remained until May was 1978 (May 1). Last year the ice was out by April 9, and the two years prior were both April 13. From 1869 to 1900 it went into May fifteen times, and in the 20th century, nineteen times. The earliest ice-out date is March 29, which occurred in both 1921 and 1946. (The Argus newspaper listed all the dates this spring.)



April 14, 2001, Gary's Snowy View

Dock and Canoe Found

The ice took one dock casualty on Perkins Pond this year. It is about 16 feet long with a planter box at one end. It can be found tied up at the public boat launch.

Claude and Marion Leavitt have found a loose 17 foot green canoe – call them at 763-2129 if you lost one.

Mandatory Boating Safety Course

New Hampshire now has a state boating safety course requirement. Anyone operating a motorized vessel having power in excess of 15 hp must carry a safe boater education certificate. The Lake Sunapee Protective Association is offering the two-evening course. Call for available dates and to reserve a spot at 603-763-2210.

Email Addresses

If you didn't get an email about the PPPA meeting, then we don't have your email address. If you'd like to get Perkins Pond news earlier, email your email address to: secretary@perkinspond.org

Boat Landing Upkeep

The boat landing needs a little care. The metal non-skid grates are in need of replacement. Gary also suggests that we might install a pump and hose system to enable the washing of incoming and outgoing boats, and is looking for ideas and help.

Lakes Web-Surfing

The Lake Sunapee Protective Association's web site, www.lakesunapee.org, has some interesting material, including links to other lakes-related information.

In case you're wondering when Lake Winnepesaukee's ice goes out, you can check it at:

www.winnepesaukee.com/iceout.htm.

For ideas about how to decorate your boat for the Ski Day boat parade check out <http://www.vantine.net/lakeboon/> These are pictures from a boat parade in your secretary's home town.

Lake Boon faces many of the same issues as Perkins Pond. Unfortunately, their weed problem is much worse than what we experience. They also have an annual lake carnival and festivities over an entire summer weekend. Lake Boon has a very active web site at <http://townonline.koz.com/visit/lakeboon>



Perkins Pond Reminders

- Boat speed should be at “No Wake” within 150 feet of shore or other boats. For jet skis, it’s within 300 feet. It’s NH law, it’s safe, and it protects the shoreline.
- If your boat has been in other waters, wash it thoroughly before launching into Perkins Pond. Let’s keep the alien weeds out.
- Boat traffic follows a clockwise rotation on the pond
- Don’t feed the ducks. They are cute to watch but what they leave behind is not good for the water.
- Don’t use lawn fertilizers. They cause phosphorus to be dumped into the lake, producing plant growth that damages water quality.
- Be courteous to your neighbors. Continually barking dogs echoing across the pond can really disturb a peaceful summer day.

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